

10-30-2001

The Hilltop 10-30-2001

Hilltop Staff

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THE HILLTOP



The Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 85, NO. 18

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2001

University to Add Computers at Hotel Dorms

By MAKEBRA ANDERSON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Kenneth White works tirelessly in the iLab trying to complete an assignment for his 8:00 a.m. class. There is only one problem, the last shuttle to the Holiday Inn Silver Spring leaves in 10 minutes and there is no computer lab in the hotel, hence another assignment missed.

This predicament, shared by many students in makeshift student housing, will be a worry of the past as the University plans to have computer labs up and running by the end of the week, University officials say.

"It's about time they set up a computer lab for the students who live in the hotels," said White, a sophomore education major. "It's bad enough we have to live here at least they can make it resemble a dormitory as much as possible."

"Both the Holiday Inn and DoubleTree will have

computer services within the week," said Dr. Steven Chambers, special assistant to the President. "The computers were supposed to arrive to the University (Friday) and should be delivered to the hotels by (yesterday)."

Money for purchasing the computers came from the University General Operating Fund and hotel officials have confirmed that they will do all they can to help the administration accommodate students.

"There is definitely room for the computers," said Mark Brown, general manager of the Holiday Inn. "We will set the computers up in one of the largest board rooms on the lobby level."

The University made some computers available to students at the beginning of the semester. However, the computers only offered Internet services, and for many students this was not adequate since word-processing was not available on these models. Students have found it difficult to complete homework assignments without computer access.

"I think it's great that they are putting computers in the hotel because it was extremely difficult to do my work without easy access to a computer," said Ayanna Simpson, sophomore English major.

Approximately 12 to 14 computers were purchased earlier this month and will be divided between both hotels. After the decision had been made to purchase computers the process of putting them into the facilities was simple.

The hardest part was convincing the hotels that the computers were necessary," said Chambers. "After that, it was just a matter of waiting for them to be delivered to the campus."

Some students feel the new computer labs will benefit those students who don't own computers the most.

"The idea of putting computers in the hotels is a very good one," said Taneisha Walsby, a junior criminal justice major. "It's going to make life a lot easier for the people who don't own computers of their own."

Hotel management remains optimistic that business will continue to run smoothly after the computer lab is up and running.

"This is only a slight inconvenience and the hotel will definitely be able to work around the lab," said Brown.

The makeshift hotel dormitories are not permanent and after students are housed on campus the computers will be brought back to campus University officials say.

"The goal is to have Silver Springs students back on campus by second semester, so the computers will probably be distributed into the iLab," said Chambers.

Along with metro cards, laundry services and food services, new computers in hotels are some of the attempts made by the University to accommodate students who have been housed away from campus.

Muslims Call for Ceasefire During Ramadan

By DANIELLE MITCHELL
Contributing Writer

With the Muslim holy month of Ramadan rapidly approaching, many, including Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf, have called for the U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan to quickly come to an end.

Opposition to further military action claim that continuing the military campaign would increase anti-U.S. sentiment. General Musharraf said in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live" that the campaign's continuation during Ramadan "would certainly have some negative effects in the Muslim world."

Beginning November 16th, Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic year. Ordained by the Koran, it is a time of fasting, when Muslims are forbidden to eat, drink or smoke. According to Howard University's Muslim Student Association president, Ibrahim Adesanya, "This fasting teaches self-restraint." It is a time for Muslims to cleanse the self and concentrate on their faith. Ramadan also is believed to be the time when Muhammad received the first revelations of the Koran.

Bombing during this holy month could provoke sympathy for Afghanistan in the Muslim world - deepening resentment for the United States. Negative feelings toward the U.S. are beginning to multiply as a result of the growing number of reports concerning civilian casualties from errant bombs in Afghanistan. According to a Washington Post article, sources within the country have said that "a bus full of civilians leaving a mosque in Islamabad was hit; a 1,000 lb. bomb was accidentally dropped near a nursing home in Herat; and two 500 lb. bombs were dropped in residential areas of Kabul."

Officials from the Pakistani Embassy claim that while the Pakistani government understands the war against terrorism will be long, they hope the military aspects will be short and over with as soon as possible. With increased casualties comes increased sympathy for Afghanistan. According to one official, the request to stop bombing, "should in no way be construed as a weakening of will, it is an issue of tactics not strategy."

Adesanya, however, believes the bombing should stop before Ramadan because of the number of civilian casualties. "People complained about the Sept. 11th tragedies because of the huge loss of civilian life, which under no circumstances is warranted. They say this, but they do the same thing to Afghanistan, [a country] that was meager to begin with. Don't wait until Ramadan, but stop the bombing of innocent civilians. If the U.S. holds Afghanistan guilty, they themselves are guilty of the same crimes. In times of war and peace, there should not be a double standard of justice."

The U.S. has not made any movement to comply. According to the university's Diplomat-in-Residence, June Carter Perry, "The goal is to pursue those who are responsible for the Sept. 11th attacks. We have a deep resolve to reach those objectives." Perry says that this is a global issue. The attacks were against the world community since 80 countries were represented among the casualties of the World Trade Center.

Real World vs. Road Rules You May be Next



Courtesy of Mtv.com
Are you the one that's missing? The casting directors for the Real World and Road Rules will be in the Blackburn Center tomorrow to pick cast members for the 12th season of the popular reality shows that air on the MTV network.

Towers Residents to Remove Flags from Windows

By TIFFANIE HORNE
Contributing Writer

Due to the terrorist attacks in the District and New York City, University students can be seen showing their patriotic spirit with the American flag everywhere from belt buckles and bandanas to car antennas and T-shirts. However, in the Howard Plaza Towers students have been asked to remove any flags from their windows.

According to Towers property manager, Larry Frelow anything in the windows of dorm rooms is tacky and un-uniformed.

Flags of any country affects the ultimate appearance of the exterior of the building," said Frelow.

For many students, now is the appropriate time to take a stand and support America through visual expressions.

"I feel that it is unfair that we are prohibited to show patriotism. The American flag is a symbol of freedom, however, we aren't free to display it in our windows," said Aimee Rogers, sophomore musical theatre major.

While many students followed the request to take flags out of their windows, Avione Brown, a junior, psychology pre-medicine major took a militant approach and continued to show pride in her country. Brown explains how she was denied freedom of expression.

"My roommate and I both had flags in our windows. Due to the tragic incidents that the country went through, Please See Flags on Page A4



Terrorist Attacks Not to Affect Recruitment

By VANESSA J. WILSON
Contributing Writer

In spite of the District's recent anxieties with the terrorist attacks and more recently the anthrax scares, the University does not expect a significant decrease in enrollment for the Fall 2002 semester, officials say.

Dr. Carmen B. Cannon, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management said her office will implement an "aggressive recruitment plan" next year.

"In these uncertain times, no one can predict how recent events will affect next year's college and University enrollment. However, we do not intend to allow the event of September 11th and afterward to deter our efforts to recruit the best and brightest students," Cannon said in a statement. "In that, President Swygert and his cabinet are doing everything possible to ensure that the

Howard environment remains and will continue to be a safe one."

According to the University Communications Department, the number of students applying to Howard has increased in the past several years. For the Fall 2000 term, 5,809 prospective students applied and there were more than 6,000 applicants for the Fall 2001 school year.

In addition to the increasing number of student applicants, the number of faculty members has also increased and they too might be concerned about being located in the District.

"I would definitely not hesitate to still come teach

here...this is only temporary and Washington, D.C. is still one of the best cities in the country," said first year history professor, Dr. Alan McPherson.

Some students agree with McPherson that they would not hesitate to stay here saying they feel safe in the District because terrorists are

not particularly after blacks.

"Unfortunately, today African-Americans do not hold power in political conflicts because of the lack of roles we play in society and its political issues and therefore, we are not looked at as a threat," said sophomore finance major Marletta

Please See Enrollment, A4



File Courtesy of AP photo
Muslims stir up anti-U.S. sentiment during prayer in a mosque in Peshwar, Pakistan.

Inside

Sports

Is the Bison football squad now the team everyone wants to play for homecoming? Check out 'The Fall From Grace,' Page A5.



CAMPUS

Voices & Views

Do you see Howard's population decreasing due to DC's terrorist and anthrax scares?



Chinelo Ray,
Sophomore,
COBIS

"Definitely. Prospective students that may have considered Howard in the past may reconsider. Also parents will be concerned about the safety of their children."



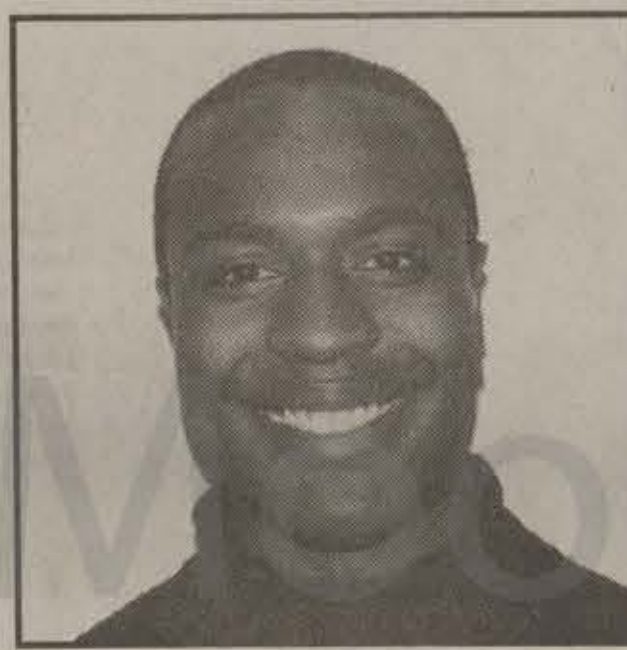
Diwura Adeyinka,
Junior, Administration of
Justice/Psychology

"People would rather go to another state because they feel this part of the country is a target."



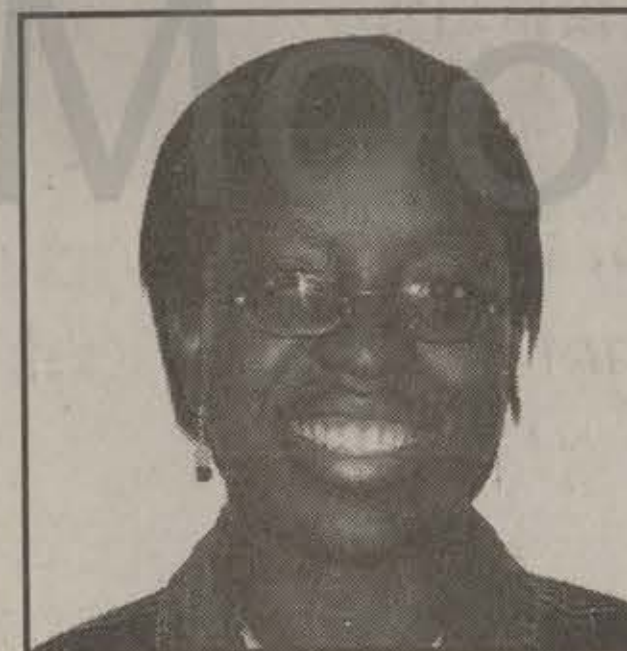
Jon Fiah Ali,
Sophomore,
Political Science/History

"No because I feel the types of students that Howard attracts will be able to see past the transitory nature of these events."



Kenny Wesley,
Sophomore,
Spanish/Biology

"No, because terrorism, in general, is prevalent in all areas of the US and there is a potential threat in all the cities across the nation."



Damilola Kehinde,
4th year architecture

"Yes, because everyone wants to feel safe and no one wants to send their kids to an unsafe place."



Cheryl Gilbreath,
Senior Biology/
1st year Pharmacy

"If we continue to go into war and other bioterrorist attacks are still going on by March, population will decrease, but if it ends by Christmas, no one will even remember."

Compiled by: Shala D. Wilson

Muslim Student Association Hosts Annual Welcome Back Program

Terrorist Attacks, Finding a Place to Worship Discussed

By BRIAN STAMPS
Contributing Writer

The Muslim Student Association held its annual "Welcome Back" celebration to discuss issues and events facing the Islamic community on campus, in the Blackburn Center on Friday.

Among the issues discussed, was the topic of the persecution of Muslims.

"Islam is as easy as breathing... breathing is not easy everywhere," said the chaplain, Imam Johari Abdul-Malik.

Abdul-Malik made reference to U.S. bombings in Afghanistan that is creating a hostile environment for Muslims. However, the Islamic community on campus said Howard is a place that fosters not only spiritual, but also emotional growth.

A topic that reigned important during the program was the terrorist attacks. Iddin expressed anger toward those responsible for the tragedy.

"We're all brothers and sisters. A true Muslim would never commit suicide because it is a big sin in Islam," Iddin said.

Chaplain Abdul-Malik said due to the exposure given to the Islamic community from the media, "Every Muslim must become even more knowledgeable" of the Islamic teachings.

Ibrahim Adesanya, president of MSA, said because of the events going on with the nation, it is time for Muslims to

come together.

"It is important that we continue to solidify the ranks of our diverse community, for that will epitomize our success," said Adesanya.

Another issue discussed at the program is their difficulties in finding a place to worship. Currently, Muslims on campus hold prayer at the old bookstore in the Tubman Quadrangle, but this is not a convenient arrangement, according to some Muslim students.

"It is an inconvenience because the space is only accessible at a certain time in the day," said Bilil Iddin, a sophomore journalism major and member of the Muslim Students Association.

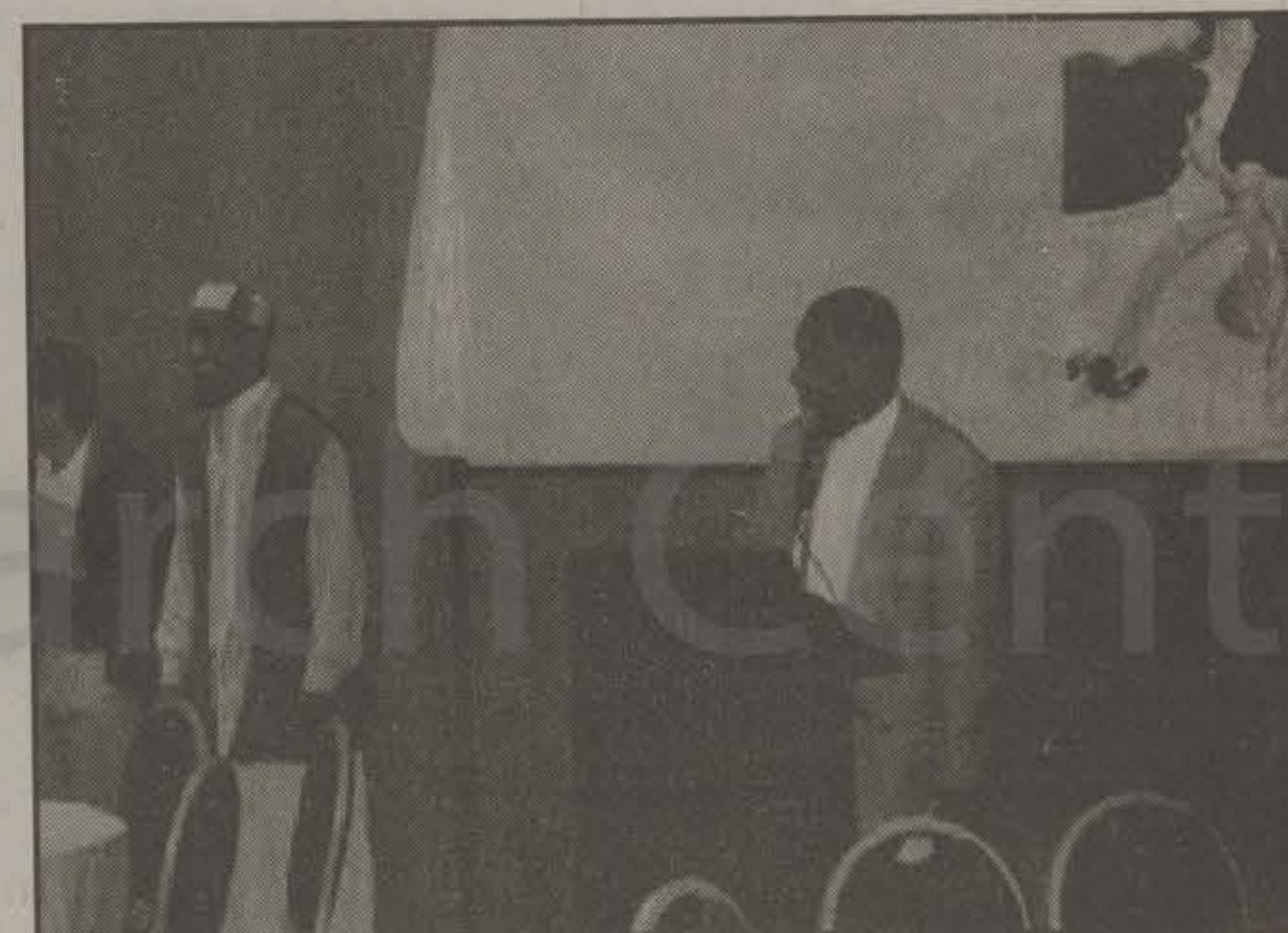
"If students have classes during the time that the space is available they may not be able use it afterwards."

Most of the Muslims are confident that the University will be successful in providing a permanent place of worship.

Muslims practice Salaat, a five-time-a-day prayer toward the east. Fagah is the first prayer and it begins before sunrise. Zhur and ASR both take place during the afternoon. Maghrib is the fourth and happens right after sunset and Isha, the final prayer takes place at nighttime.

Last year, members of the Islamic faith prayed in the Carnegie Building across from the chapel and were satisfied with that facility.

"Hopefully that arrangement will be available again this year," said Iddin.



In the coming weeks, the Muslim Student Association has several programs planned. On November 8, they will participate in the Walk for the Homeless and Islamic Awareness Week is scheduled for the second week of November. The Islamic month of Ramadan begins on November 16. According to The Five Pillars of Islam, this is a time where all Muslims fast and are not allowed to eat during daylight hours. Muslims cannot engage in activities ranging from sexual intercourse to evil intentions during Ramadan. This is to instill virtue within the individual. During this time, MSA has late prayer with food provided afterward.

Job Fair Continues Despite Slight Setbacks

By AMIE McLAIN
Contributing Writer

The long lines that snaked throughout the Blackburn Ballroom Thursday comprised students in their sharpest attire in an attempt to "sell themselves" to companies seeking interns and employees at the School of Communications Job Fair.

This year's fair was condensed to a one-day event instead of two. A job fair booklet, received by individuals in attendance, contained a statement from the Dean of Communications Jannette L. Dates and Coordinator Carol Dudley citing the terrorist attacks as the reason for a shortened job fair.

"During the past weeks, our nation has faced unimaginable devastations and losses, in addition to the downturn in the economy. In deference to this downturn and the tragedies of September 11, 2001, we have changed our regular two-day job fair to a one-day event."

Despite the recent tragedies, Dudley said she felt the fair remained a success.

"Some schools and companies were afraid to travel to Washington D.C., but the job fair turned out to be better than I expected. Recruiters felt that the abbreviation had no harmful effect on the quality of candidates or the quality of the event," Dudley said.

In addition to the shortened schedule, there were other changes made to the job fair. Newspaper representatives, who usually make up more than half of the recruiters, were poor in number this year. Also, the annual ABC News Reception was cancelled because the corporation "did not want to have news professionals in one place due to the anthrax scare," said Dudley. However, corporations such as MTV and schools such as the University of Southern California graduate school were new additions to this year's fair.

Broadcast journalism students had an advantage over other communication students due to the greater number of television and radio networks present at the fair. According to the job fair program, nearly half of the 51 companies present were broadcast stations. The remaining organizations were divided between public relations, print journalism, and advertising.

Dudley expressed her excitement about the number of possibilities for students at

this year's fair.

"This year more companies were seeking interns. I think at a college job fair students, particularly sophomores and juniors, should have no greater expectation than to receive an internship, not a job," said Dudley.

Theodore Sapp, a fourth year radio, television, and film student, felt the job fair was adequate, but was disappointed at the number of companies that were present.

"I was upset it was shortened to one day. Some broadcast companies I was expecting to see were not there. I noticed a lot more students from other universities participating, as well." Other universities represented at the fair were Hampton, North Carolina A&T, Dillard University and Southern Illinois University.

Some students complained that recruiters were not only low in number, but also not very personable.

"The recruiters were not as eager this year. The job fair was decent at best; in the past years there were a lot more corporations to see," said Jeff Williams, a senior radio, television, and film major.

Some students like Darby Baham, a freshman print journalism major, gained valuable experience from speaking with the recruiters.

"As a freshman, I was expecting only to network with a few companies, however I was thrilled to be offered an internship from CBS News. It is such a prestigious network," Baham said.

Media corporations at the fair were seeking a wide range of qualities in students they interviewed.

According to Juhi Mehta, a representative of ABC, Inc., the network was interested in scouting candidates that were "enthusiastic, hard-driven and well-versed."

Another hiring officer Clyde Blassengale, Jr. of the Associated Press was looking for similar characteristics in recruits.

"[We are seeking] people who take the initiative, follow the application procedure correctly, and present themselves well."

During the fair, Blassengale was enthused about the caliber of students the University has and said he felt Howard was a great resource for employing minorities.

"We believe in diversity for good coverage. I'll definitely be back next year," said Blassengale.

Bison in Britain

Global Threat of Anthrax

By KERRY ANN HAMILTON
Contributing Writer

In a precautionary tactic to thwart the spread of anthrax sweeping across the continental United States to reach the American students in London, Richmond's President Walter McCann urged students to exercise caution when handling mail.

"London has recently experienced a series of Anthrax hoaxes. Envelopes delivered by Royal Mail contained suspicious powder. So far none have contained anthrax. Nevertheless, for your protection we must assume that one day a piece of mail might contain anthrax, as has been true in the US and elsewhere," said McCann.

Miki Nemoto, Chief Supervisor of the University's mailroom, emphasizes there is no known threat of Anthrax to the University at this time. However, Nemoto did mention a box that was delivered to the University to no particular recipient. The box, fortunately, was empty.

Since the anthrax panic, Nemoto outlined procedures for the workers in the mailroom, some of them students, to abide by when sorting mail.

"We have certainly adopted new procedures in light of the global threat of anthrax," Nemoto said.

According to Nemoto student workers have been instructed to wear latex gloves and paper masks as a safety precaution. The mailroom staff was also told to look for irregularities such as missing postage, no addressee or sender, and mail containing a powdery substance.

Carol Ruiz, graduating senior, from Spain, was routinely following new procedures at the time of the interview, she was wearing her latex gloves and mask and was busy checking each piece of mail for any abnormality.

"Richmond is an American University so I can see why it is essential that we exercise caution for the safety of all students," Ruiz said.

Atanas Genov, a junior, business management major is also a student worker in the mailroom. He maintains that the new precautionary measures are extreme.

"I am not worried, we are over-reacting. I don't think Anthrax will affect us at Richmond. However, if I were working in the States, where there has been several traces of the bacteria, then I would feel threatened," said Genov.

Some students, like third year photography major Lisa Blair, were outraged by the government's approach to the anthrax situation.

"When I read the news on the CNN web site little is said about what is being done to cure or treat those who were possibly infected. The US with all its technology and investigative services, I think, can do a better job at curbing the impact of the anthrax outbreak," said Blair.

Americans and global citizens after the attack of September 11th braced themselves for a war of some form. President George W. Bush, in his address to the nation and world a few days after the attack, highlighted that the war against terrorism would be long and its form would vary. Not many people were prepared for a biological or chemical weapon such as anthrax. Whether it is a tool being used by terrorists, there is no concrete proof.

What is certain is that we are on high alert. The emotions grief, anger, and fear are flaring. America and the global community have been severely shaken, but we must remain valiant and spirited.

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear." —Ambrose Redmoon

Emails are welcome at bisoninbritain@hotmail.com

Kerry-Ann K. Hamilton, Junior, Broadcast major, studying abroad in London

Students Ready for Upcoming Travel Season by Overcoming Flight Fear

By Aisha Chaney
Contributing Writer

With the holidays right around the corner, many students are making arrangements to fly home in spite of the terrorist attacks.

Since the airports reopened, security is now tighter than ever, which has made students feel more comfortable about flying.

"I'm not scared to fly because of all the security they have now, and I doubt very seriously that they'll try to do the same thing over again twice," said sophomore political science major Baionne Williams. "I'm a Christian and I believe that God will protect me, so I have no reason to be scared."

Other students share the same feelings as Williams about the increased security, but they are even more pleased with the cheap ticket

rates that the airlines are now offering.

"I feel as comfortable, if not more comfortable about flying home for the holidays, especially now that the rates are cheap," said Mark Smith, a senior political science major from Detroit. "I feel even safer about home now. There are so many security checks and safety precautions now, and not only for terrorist threats, but for airplane maintenance as well."

Airlines have decreased ticket prices in an attempt to retain customers due to the fact that people now look for other forms of transportation such as Greyhound or Amtrak. However, for some students taking the bus or train is too much of a long and tedious task so they still plan to fly regardless and just overcome their fear.

"I'm going home regardless, but because I live in Kansas, I'm not trying to take a bus or train,

so I can't be afraid to fly," said sophomore print journalism major Amber Moseley. "And plus, it's more probable that I'll get killed in a car accident, by lightning, or even in front of the Towers than by terrorists in the air."

Since the flights that crashed during the terrorist attacks were cross-country flights, some students that live on the west coast are afraid to fly for fear of the same thing happening again.

"I want to go home, but I really don't want to fly because California is about 3,000 miles away and all of the flights that crashed were cross-country flights. I don't want to be a victim," said Chauna Bryant, a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Los Angeles.

While some westsiders are fearful of flying, others are remaining brave because they realize that they have no choice if they want to go back home.

"I'm not scared to fly probably because I don't have a choice since I live in California," said sophomore administration of justice major, LaDreana Maye. "I can either be scared and not fly home, or be brave and trust that security is doing their job."

Overall, a majority of students seem to feel safe about flying home for the holidays, however for those students who are still afraid, the advice of Lamont A. Harrell may help to ease your mind.

"I am as comfortable as anyone can be about being on an airplane," said Harrell. "We are all taking risks everyday in all aspects of life."

I realize that September 11th was as isolated incident, and that almost anything can go wrong while in the air, but that's just the risk that you take when flying."

Campus Crime Report

This is a service of the Howard University Campus Police. This report was compiled by Campus Editor Brakhton Booker.

Oct. 25

HPT
Sick transport

Burr Gym
Lost property

Law School
Injured employee

Cancer Center
Damaged property

HUH
Theft II

Greene Stadium
Lost property

Quad
Sick transport

2225 Ga. Ave.
Auto accident

Health Center
Sick transport

Annex
Fire alarm activation

Oct. 26

Burr Gym
Theft II

Carver Hall
Harassing phone call

Cafeteria
Suspicious substance

HPT
False fire alarm

Burr Gym
Theft I

A-2 Garage
Reckless driving

Annex
Sick transport

Oct. 27

Architecture & Planning
Bldg.
Unlocked doors

Engineering Bldg.

Unlocked doors

Chemistry Bldg.
Unlocked doors

Physics Bldg.
Unlocked doors

Biology Bldg.
Unlocked doors

Pharmacy Bldg.
Unlocked doors

Slowe Hall
Sick transport

HPT
Burglary

Oct.28
Annex
Stolen property

Meridian Hill Hall
Simple assault

Biology Bldg.
Suspicious package

Ratliff Preaches on What's the Big Deal on Walking on Water

By Monica Steele
Contributing Writer

Shouts of jubilation echoed through the air as Dr. Joe Samuels Ratliff, brought a Cramton congregation to their feet with a humorous, but inspiring sermon on having faith amongst believers.

During his sermon, titled 'What Is The Big Deal about Walking on Water', taken from Matthew 14 12:22, Ratliff outlined how society today is set in their habits, but not wanting to direct their faith in the right direction.

"So many of us are caught up in sensationalism, and caught up in the routine in loving God, but have not began to begin the practice of believing in him," said Ratliff.

According to Ratliff, the greatest synonym found in faith is risk, and the biggest problem seen today is people going around preaching about the Lord, but hasn't even been saved yet.

Aside from teaching on the faith direction, Ratliff also spoke on how some people are afraid to take risk in their lives and strive for excellence.

"People cannot handle when you take a risk, they try to pull you down to their level and have you settle for mediocrity. But students, I urge you to challenge them, you must step out and put your risk with God," Ratliff said.

Ratliff concluded his sermon with humorous terminology that left him every student on their feet and praising.

"Risk is a substance for those that are hopeful. So what

if you fail a test, or miss a class, you're not going to run home the very next day, so stop tripping," Ratliff said.

Ratliff, displaying some wit, briefly spoke of the story of when five thousand men were fed by five loaves of bread and two small fish.

"If you believe that God had the power to feed thousands with a fish sandwich, then believe in your faith and realize that God had nothing, but greatness in store for you," said Ratliff.

Many in the congregation expressed their delight with Chapel's speaker.

Junior, legal communication major Stephanie Durham said the message today hit close to home for her.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the service today, I went through a lot of emotional struggle to get to Howard," said Durham. "Many people told me to say closer to home, but now after hearing the sermon I feel blessed to be here."

Senior English major, Olu Burrell also shared Durham's sentiments.

"I loved the way Ratliff strayed away from the traditional style of preaching and instead choose to preach in a way that students would more understand," said Burrell. "The whole sermon was phenomenal."

Ratliff, a pastor of the Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, leads one of the largest congregation in Houston with more than

10, 000 members and fourteen mission churches.

Women on Campus 'Rap' about Life Issues

By Corey Cunningham
Hilltop Staff Writer

Female bonding at the Mecca has become easier for ladies in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Arts & Sciences' Hot Chocolate Rap Session provides a relaxing and intimate environment for young women to discuss issues of concern.

The Rap Session, hosted by Arts and Sciences student council President, Anna Alexander, sought to bring together Howard women from all backgrounds in hopes that the participants could learn from one other.

"In a time where the value of women as a whole is not being realized, I felt it was necessary to have a program where young women could come together and just talk," said Alexander.

The discussions during the session centered on the theme of self-respect versus self-worth. The women tried to distinguish between the two and apply them to their own life experiences.

"Many females think these terms are the same, but they are not. You can have a lot of self-worth and no self-respect. Look at Lil' Kim. She has a lot of self-worth, but do you think she has self-respect?" asked Alexander as

she addressed the other ladies.

During the talk, the issue of abuse surfaced as a major topic. The ladies discussed what abuse was and how to deal with it. As the conversation on abuse progressed, many shared candid personal accounts of how abuse had affected them.

"The conversation was great. Anna touched on real issues. She was on it and made everyone feel connected," said freshman biology major Rashunda Stitt.

Echoing Stitt's sentiments, freshman political science major, Aisha Hankerson summed the feeling of the night's dialogue with her favorite phrase, "Beautifulism."

The women also talked about the breakdown of the female network. Most agreed that Howard was the perfect example of this breakdown.

"Girls will pass by each other without speaking but when a guy comes by, they can't say enough. It's like we have lost touch with each other," said Alexander.

The Hot Chocolate Rap session is part of the College of Arts and Sciences' Reality Check Program. A session for the men of Arts and Sciences titled, "Diamonds in the Ruff," is scheduled to take place later this semester.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

KING DAVID

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9:00 - 10:30 PM

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NEWS

Postcards to Outline Mail Safety

By ANDREA COREY
Contributing Writer

Over the past couple of months Americans have witnessed history in the making: the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, America's war on the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and the very idea of terrorism, and the steadily increasing number of Americans being diagnosed with Anthrax. This most recent form of terrorism has made itself known in the past few weeks as anthrax-laced letters threaten to attack the health of American citizens, disrupt the US Postal Service and ultimately ebb at the very core of our economy.

Looming threats of bio-terrorism and anthrax used to be as far away from the average citizen's mind as the abrupt terrorist attacks once were. The U.S. Postal Service will be sending out transparent, informative postcards to every address in the nation, in an attempt to ease the fears of Americans.

The post cards will give detailed instructions on how to identify suspicious mail and what to do with it. According to Postmaster General John E. Potter "the best defense that we have right now is an educated American public and an educated work force."

In handling mail, Potter stresses the use of common sense and urges citizens that if they "receive something that is suspicious, to isolate it, put it in a plastic bag, [do not] let other people touch it, [do not] shake it, [do not] taste it, [do not] sniff it" and call local law enforcement agencies immediately."

Sending and receiving mail had never been given a second thought until recently. Formerly known as the U.S. Postal Department, the U.S. Postal Service has handled over 160 billion pieces of mail since it was reorganized under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.

In addition to sending out post cards the Postal Service is joining forces with the television show "America's Most Wanted" to track down the source of the anthrax threat. Officials hope that the television show will spur the search and collect tips from the public. As an incentive they are offering a \$1 million reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone mailing anthrax.

Anthrax letters reported at the office of Senator Tom Daschle and the NBC and CBS stations followed by the death of a mail handler in Florida and the recent deaths of two Brentwood postal workers have caused Americans to become more suspicious of receiving mail.

Even on Howard's campus this skepticism of receiving mail is becoming apparent. Junior international business major Angela Dzuro-Quick works behind the front desk at Meridian Hill Hall and admits to being "nervous when handling the dorm's mail, especially since the mail at Meridian is processed at the Brentwood facility." Like many other students prior to these anthrax cases, freshman chemistry major Charmaine Johnson had faith in the postal system but now feels "anxiety every time [she] receives mail."

Postmaster Potter along with other U.S. Postal workers are working hard to restore the faith that Charmaine and so many other citizens have lost.

"In the first days following the tragic attacks, the appearance of letter carriers in virtually every neighborhood throughout the nation gave the American people the reassurance that the fabric of everyday, although damaged, remained intact," Potter said in a statement. "Since then, some have attempted to undermine this anchor of our daily life," he said. "We will continue to do everything possible to protect the confidence of the American people in their mail."

Potter said his agency moves about 680 pieces of mail every day and its top priorities are the "safety of our employees, the safety of our customers and the security of the mail."

Students Fight for 'Election Protection'

By CHARMION KINDER
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, November 3, 2001, over 500 college students from the Washington D.C. area will be packing their bags and strapping up their boots, to embark on a journey that will define a new age of activism. Howard University students, along with students from other colleges and universities, will be traveling on a mission to New Jersey and Virginia to defend their democracy. The mission? "Election Protection."

The People for the American Way Foundation, a non-profit, civil liberties organization, along with several other organizations have fully funded "Election

Protection." It is a program that utilizes people, including active college students, to mobilize communities to vote, through galvanizing voter education and encouraging voter participation.

The program evolved out of the massive voter disenfranchisement and voter irregularities that occurred in last year's presidential election. According to The People for the American Way Foundation, black voters cast 54 percent of all rejected votes in Florida last year, and blacks made up only 11 percent of the votes that were counted.

"We realized how crucially impor-

tant it is to make sure that voters know about their rights and can exercise them on the spot on election day", said Ralph G. Neas, President of the Foundation, in a People For The American Way press release.

The People for the American Way have formed a coalition with organizations including The NAACP National Voter Empowerment Program and Voter Fund, The Legal Education Defense Fund, The A. Philip Randolph Institute, The Lawyers' committee for Civil Rights Under Law, The Voices of Electorate, New Jersey Election Enforcement, and Black You Vote to support this massive project.

Students will be participating in a week full of events that will begin with a rally on Saturday. Upon arrival, some Howard University students will join forces with students from Hampton, Virginia State, Richmond, Norfolk State, and Virginia Common Wealth universities in Virginia. The other group of Howard students will meet up with students from Princeton, New Brunswick College, Seton Hall, Rowin College, and Essex County Colleges in New Jersey.

Volunteers will spend three days leading up to the election and election day going door-to-door, phone banking, passing out information about voter rights, talking to people

about their right to vote, and poll watching, penetrating communities with an exuberant message to "Lift Every Voice and Vote," coined by the NAACP.

Channing Hawkins, coordinator of special projects for The People For The American Way Foundation and Howard University Alum explained, "this particular part of "Election Protection" is encouraging young people and students to get more involved in voting and the political process." He continued, "this coalition of organizations has banned together to prevent what happened in last year's election...we want to be there for voters to make sure their right to vote is protected."

Hawkins and Donna Davis, a Howard University junior legal communications major and student intern at People for the American Way, have worked diligently to coordinate these efforts along with various organizations at Howard University to maximize student body participation.

The foundation has worked in conjunction with the Howard University Student Association (HUSA), the NAACP Howard University Chapter, the Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA), along with an entire host of campus organizations to work toward making this project a success. "We have gotten about

400 students who have expressed interest in attending the trip from Howard University", said Hawkins. Including George Washington University, about 500 plus students from the district have signed up to attend.

Jarvis Houston, a senior political science major and Political Action chair for HUSA reported that HUSA is bringing one hundred volunteers, including 50 volunteers from the political action committee. "HUSA decided to spearhead this project because we wanted to make sure that the Howard University community continues its legacy of activism," said Houston.

The November 6th elections will prompt voters in both New Jersey and Virginia to elect a new governor. Primary candidates in New Jersey include James McGreevey (D), Bret Schudler (R), with seven independent candidates running as well. In Virginia three candidates are running for governor, Mark Warner (D), Mark Earley (R), and William Redpath, who is running as a libertarian.

"Election Protection" should ensure that all registered voters have access to the polls and the preempted encouragement they need to cast a ballot. Young activists across the nation have put forth an amazing effort to trailblaze the path to non-apathetic political sentiment and

FOREIGN BRIEFS

UNITED STATES — US jets have launched a series of heavy bombing raids over the Afghan capital of Kabul, some of which seemed to be targeting a Taliban military base close to a residential suburb. Residents say five bombs exploded in the city roared overhead and Taliban gunners responded with sporadic anti-aircraft fire. The Red Cross says three more of their warehouses in Kabul have been destroyed.

PUERTO RICO — The former president of Puerto Rico's House of Representatives was arrested Friday. A federal grand jury has been investigating whether the legislator, Edison Misla Aldarondo, improperly intervened in the sale of the Arecibo Regional Hospital to a Puerto Rico company, Sulsoni Corp. Aldarondo has denied accusations by Julio Rodriguez Gomez, claiming that the legislator received \$90,000 from the sale of the hospital. The president of the New Progressive Party wants to convene a legislative caucus Friday to choose a substitute for Aldarondo.

AFRICA — Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo faces mounting criticism over the apparent massacre of hundreds of villagers by vengeful soldiers in central Nigeria. Local people and officials accused troops of killing at least 200 ethnic-Tiv during a three day rampage in an area where the bodies of 19 soldiers were found hacked to death. The members of the parliament called for the resignation of Obasanjo's Minister and Army Chief. Survivors gave wildly varying figures for the number of people killed, but even the lowest were in the hundreds.

MEXICO CITY — Pressure mounted on Friday for Mexican authorities to bring to justice the killers of human rights lawyer Digna Ochoa. Digna Ochoa was believed to have made enemies in the army and the police during her brief career. And after years of threats, harassment and two violent attacks, her enemies finally caught up with Digna Ochoa a week ago and shot her dead inside her Mexican office. Investigations are still pending.

INDONESIA — Three warships are searching for a commercial vessel which was reportedly hijacked by about 170 Iraqi asylum seekers. Navy Spokesman First Admiral Kayhatu said he believed the boat would be difficult to locate. This hijacking marks another episode in a growing regional crisis over thousands of Middle Eastern and Afghan asylum seekers who embark on the dangerous sea journey's to reach Australia from Indonesia each year.

SWITZERLAND — As many as 120 people remain unaccounted for, for nearly two days after the Gotthard road tunnel fire that claimed at least 11 lives. Police expressed hope that the number of missing would drop, in the belief that most people escaped before the outbreak of the fire. Officials said the tunnel could remain closed for two weeks because of extensive damage.

MIDDLE EAST — Thousands of young people have taken to the streets of Iran in the past week, causing some of the worst violence in the history of the 22-year old Islamic revolution. The youth used the world cup football as an excuse to reclaim the streets. Dozens of banks have been burned and cars over turned as the authorities set up courts to try more than thousands detainees. The sentences these youth will face is still pending.

Simpson Acquitted of Charges in Road Rage Case

By MONICA STEELE
Contributing Writer

Resurfacing in the news this past week, the infamous O.J. Simpson was acquitted of all charges in a road rage trial on Thursday, October 24th. The former Buffalo Bills football star denied reaching into another driver's car and grabbing his glasses, insisting that the other driver started the altercation.

According to a *New York Times* article, Simpson put his hand to his chest and mouthed, "Thank you" toward the jury after the verdict. He then hugged his lawyers. "I'm a little bit angry and a little bit happy — a lot happy," Simpson said to reporters as he left the courthouse.

Simpson, who was cleared of criminal charges in the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ronald Goldman, was accused of grabbing defendant Jefferey Pattinson's glasses and scratching his face in a road-rage argument that

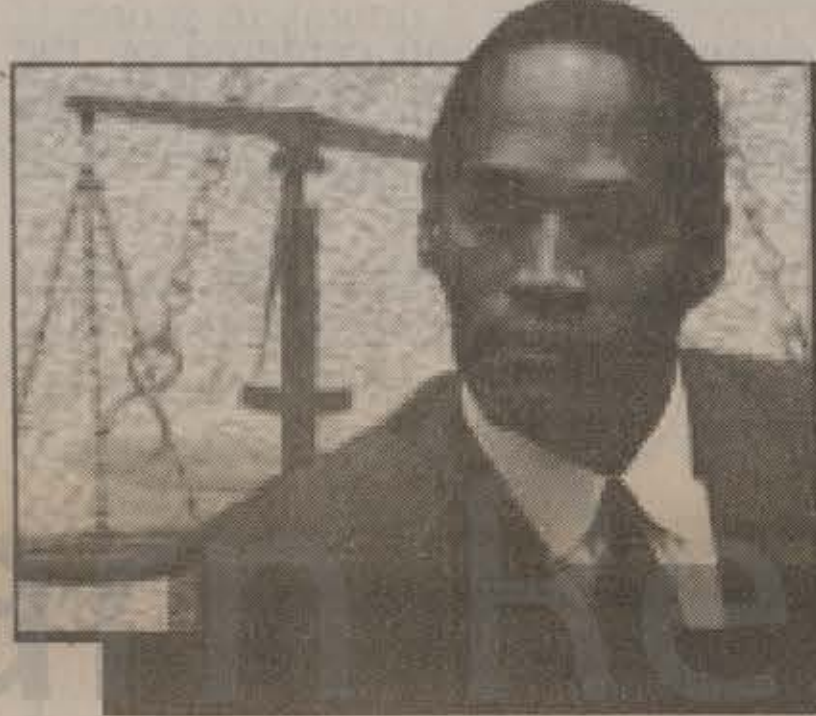
took place in a suburban Miami neighborhood last year.

Simpson denied ever reaching inside Pattinson's car to obtain the glasses and said the two men challenged each other outside of their SUVs. When Simpson said Pattinson lied about staying in his car, the prosecutor asked him whether he would ever lie. As reported by an online source, Simpson responded, "I've never been put in that position to have to lie with my life on the line."

One of the most difficult aspects of the ruling was that both Simpson and Pattinson offered drastically different accounts of how the incident occurred, which made it very hard for the jury to believe either one.

Simpson said the confrontation began after he rolled through a stop sign while the other driver, Pattinson, was approaching the intersection from another direction.

Pattinson said Simpson ran a stop sign, then acted like "a madman" as



he sat in his locked car with the win-
CNN.com File Photo

dow partly rolled down. Pattinson also went on to say that Simpson "grabbed his eyeglasses off his head as he sat on his steering wheel."

Simpson accused Pattinson of "sitting on his horn." He said he thought Pattinson was seeking an autograph or was trying to tell him about a problem with his car.

Pattinson said he flashed his lights and honked his horn not once, but twice to get Simpson to pull over and

stop. This led Simpson, who had his two kids in the car, to believe that something was wrong. Simpson testified, "I was upset with myself that I stopped. It was wrong for me to stop, but the guy made it impossible for me to drive, and I feared that my children's lives were in danger."

The jury deliberated for about 90 minutes before returning a verdict of "Not Guilty." Juror Ernesto Diaz told reporters that the jury decided there was not enough evidence to prove Simpson reached into Pattinson's car, the basis for the burglary charge. He also told reporters that the prosecutors should have called Simpson's young children, the only other witnesses, to testify.

Pattinson was not in the courtroom for the outcome, and has not spoken publicly since the incident.

The 54-year-old Simpson would have faced up to 16 years in jail had he been convicted of the charges of auto burglary and battery for last year's dispute.

Towers Residents to Remove Flags From Bedroom Windows

From Flags, A1

this is a time to stand by my nation. I feel that the country should be united during this time and what better way to unite through patriotism." Brown said. "My student assistant came to my room on several occasions to tell us to take our flags down. I refused because he had no reasonable explanation for why." There are penalties and punishments for not abiding by the rules set by management. "Although there is no rule directly concerning flags in the window, when residents sign the House Rules they agree to comply with rules enforced by management. Maintenance and management will take down anything in the windows," said Student Assistant Lee Hill.

Looking at it from a political standpoint, Ato Lawrence, senior, international business major said, "There should be no policy that impedes students from expressing patriotism. If one is denied the freedom of expression their whole existence is in vain." College students generally like to decorate their environment to fit their individual needs and expressions, but Frelow said those requests can be expressed in other ways.

"Flags of any nation can be proudly displayed on the inside of rooms including doors, walls, and ceilings. By no means is management trying to impose on individuals' freedom of expression," said Frelow.

Attacks Not to Affect Recruitment

From Enrollment, A1

M.Boyd, II.

Parents also play a big factor in whether students would come to Howard because of their worries of recent anthrax and terrorists threats. "I would definitely still decide to come to Howard," said sophomore human development major Janna Foster. "But I do think my mom would be very hesitant. I am the baby, and she takes great pride in it." Other students said that they should move on with their life and not let these tragic events hold them back from future plans like attending

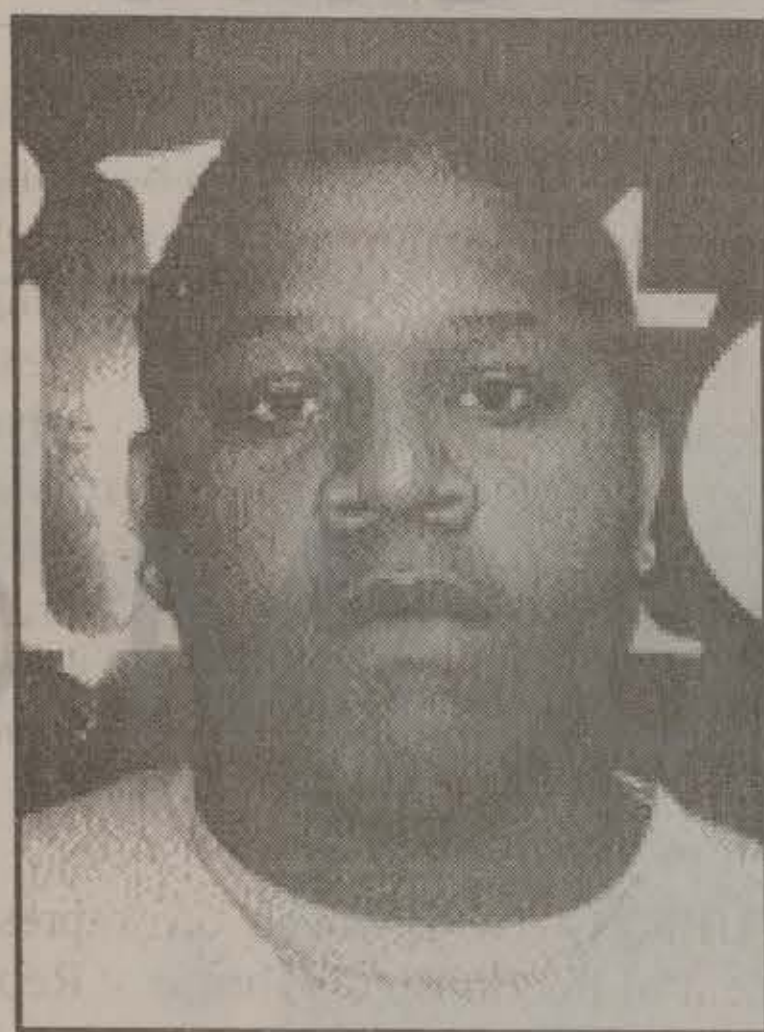
Howard University.

"If you let terrorists prevent you from achieving your future plans and goals, then you have let them win and succeed in their ambition," said senior biology major April Wilson. "You never know what is going to happen to you and whether you are in DC or not, what is intended to happen to you will happen, because it is all about God's plan" said second year Dental student Leonisha Thomas.

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Allen Powell, II

The Fall From Grace; MEAC Champs to the Homecoming Team

As I sat in my room Sunday night, and watched the Washington Redskins once again roll to an impressive victory, I couldn't help but wonder, what's wrong with Howard? I wondered what was wrong with the Bison football team because once again we managed to lose, this time to lowly Norfolk State. I mean come on. Norfolk State? We usually use the Norfolk State game as a way to see who has the best touchdown dances on the team. Before Saturday, the Spartans had not beaten us in eight years. As I contemplated this sad turn of events I came to one stunning conclusion, Howard is now the "Homecoming team" of the MEAC.

What is a "Homecoming team" you ask, well let me explain. See in every level of football, every team wants to win their Homecoming game. The Homecoming game is the one game where you are just about guaranteed to have a sellout crowd, and well, nobody wants to get smacked around in front of a big crowd. Therefore, teams usually invite a cream puff on down to the home stadium, and beat up on them in front of alumni and students. If you still don't understand, remember that Howard played some school called Benedict College for Homecoming. Had anybody out there ever heard of Benedict College before that game? I didn't think so.

Therefore, when I say that Howard is now the Homecoming Team of the MEAC, it means that the once mighty Bison have really bottomed out. Gone are the days of Jay Walker, and Ted White. Today teams like Norfolk State schedule us for wins, while schools like North Carolina A&T give us 76-30 beatings. We only beat Benedict by a touchdown, moreover, the fact that we scheduled Benedict, a NAIA school, for our homecoming said a lot. In contrast, North Carolina A&T scheduled FAMU and dropped 55 on the Rattlers.

Truthfully, this new turn of events in Bison football baffles me. The thing that bothered me about the 'Skins during their skid, was the fact that they have several talented players, just like Howard. They have a good mix of wily veterans and explosive youngsters, just like Howard. The have several legitimate stars, just like Howard. So why is it that the Redskins have turned it around and the Bison continue to stumble?

Can somebody tell me why?

If it's not the players than it has to be the coaches. We brought in a completely new defensive staff and still gave up 76 points (I'm sorry if I seem to be harping on that, but 76? Damn). Besides that our head coach can't seem to decide who he wants to be the starting quarterback, so every week we get to hop on the wonderful quarterback carousel. I understand that Steve Wilson is the winningest coach in Howard history, but even Bear Bryant and Tom Landry had to step down. I'm not calling for Wilson's head, but I am calling for somebody in the athletic department to get their head in the game.

Allen Powell II can be reached at thehilltop@hotmail.com.

Bison Fight Whole Game, To Fall in Overtime

By AISHA CHANEY
Staff Writer

A crowd of 21,119 watched Saturday as the Bison suffered a stinging defeat at the hands of Norfolk State Spartans in a 7-0 overtime thriller at the Spartans' homecoming. This upset was the Spartans' first win over the Bison in eight years.

Although the Bison are now 2-6 overall and 1-4 in the MEAC, some players feel as though this loss hurt the most.

"I'd rather get blown out then lose like this," said senior quarterback Travis Coleman. "This one hurts for the simple fact that we played great the whole game, but then got down to the last minute and just couldn't pull it out." Star wide receiver Jevonte Philpot agreed with Coleman. "This was definitely our worst loss," said Philpot. "The defense played their hearts out, and the offense, well, we took what they gave us, but it just wasn't enough. It all came down to that one play in overtime."

Similar to last year's game at Greene Stadium, which the Bison won 14-0, the weather played a major factor in Saturday's loss.

"This was the same type of situation as last year, where the wind on our field was an issue," said Bison Head Coach Steve Wilson. "The wind blowing was a big factor in our passing game, but they played great defense all game and stopped the run well."

One player Norfolk State couldn't seem to stop, however, was sophomore running back/kick return specialist Jay Colbert. He was the one consistent factor for the offense, rushing for 93 yards on 13 carries, which was more than double the amount of rushing yards that the Spartan's whole team had.

Despite the great effort by Colbert, the offense was unable to find their way into the end zone. Wilson played three quarterbacks, junior Donald Clark in the first half, and freshmen Mar-



Last week's practice wasn't enough to prevent the Bison from falling to Norfolk State 7-0 in Saturday's game. It was the first time the Bison have loss to the Spartans in nearly a decade.

cos Moreno and senior Travis Coleman in the second. The three combined for just 11 yards, completing only 7 passes out of 25 attempts. In addition to the wind playing a factor and good defense by the Spartans, there was also a lot of miscommunication between the quarterbacks and their receivers.

Even though Philpot leads the MEAC with 10 touchdowns and is second in receptions per game, he was hardly thrown to all game and caught just one pass for six yards. Between Philpot, Shaun Miller, Daryl Nunn, and Tauric Rice, only 7 passes were caught most of them for negative yardage.

Both teams had quite a few opportunities to score down the stretch during regulation, but due to the weather, some questionable calls by referees, numerous penalties, and the great defense by both teams, the game was forced into overtime.

The way overtime works in the MEAC is both teams get the ball on their own 25-yard line and 4 downs to score. If they can't make a field goal or touchdown by fourth down, then the other team gets the ball on the 25 and tries

to score. However, if both teams score, then it continues on like that until one team doesn't. After the coin toss on midfield, the Spartans got the ball on the 25-yard line. On the first play in overtime, junior quarterback David Johnson completed a 14-yard pass to senior wide receiver Anthony Dillard, making it first and 10 from the 11-yard line.

After two incomplete passes, on third and 10 from the 11, Johnson scrambled to find the open man and hit sophomore wide receiver Howard Gilmore in the end zone making the score 7-0, after extra point by Gideon Tekola.

With the hyped up homecoming crowd cheering like crazy, the Bison lined up on the 25-yard line. Despite the pressure, Coleman tried to keep his composure and make something happen for his team.

After a couple incomplete passes and two substitution infractions, the first on the Spartans and then the Bison, it was now fourth and 10 on the 25. Coleman dropped back to pass and it was incomplete, however there were two flags on the play, both on Norfolk.

The first flag was for pass interference, which would've resulted in a first down for the Bison, however the refs waved the flag and ruled that the pass was not catchable.

The other penalty resulted in a fourth and 5 situation for the Bison, giving them one more chance, but the pass from Coleman to Nunn was ruled one yard short of the first down, ending the game at 7-0.

"Anything can happen in overtime and it did," said Wilson. "They caught one, and we didn't, and we go home with a stinging defeat."

The entire overtime experience could have been avoided if the Bison would have made a last second field goal. However, the kick was blocked. Strangely, Wilson elected to kick the field goal, even though the Bison's special teams have been sub-par all season long.

The Bison defense rebounded from last week's performance by holding the Spartans to under 200 yards of total offense, and racking up eight sacks.

Led by All-American linebackers Oby Arah (3.5 sacks, 6 solo tackles 2 assists) and Tracy White (1 sack, 5 solo tackles, 2 assists, 1 fumble recovery), the Bison defense played great the whole game, allowing the Spartan's only 35 total rushing yards.

"We just wanted to come back and play well after last week's loss," said Arah. "I personally felt that I let my teammates down last week and that I owed it to them to perform well."

Other key players for the Bison defense were safety Keith Webber who had 2 sacks, 5 solo tackles, and 1 assist and linebacker Damien Walker racked up 1 sack, 1 interception and 3 tackles.

The next game for the Bison will be Saturday at Greene Stadium against South Carolina State.

Women's Soccer Team Continue to Make Big Strides

By ALLISON GENTRY
Contributing Writer

Two years ago, the Howard University Women's soccer team did not win any games. But last year, the Lady Bison finished with a record of 8-10, the best in school history. What a difference two years make. And this year's team has already reached last year's victory mark with five games remaining in the season, and is on its way to the team's best year ever.

With their 8-5 record, and nationally ranked players, the new and improved Lady Booters are arguably the best football team on campus. Head coach Michelle Street, as well as some players, believe that the team could have done just as well last year, but they had some bad breaks they just were not able to overcome.

"Last year there was talent, but we had some bad luck. This year, everything is coming into play," said sophomore Meghan Drayton.

Street said that the team's volatile mixture of mature veterans and new talent, along with their ability to persevere throughout adverse situations, is what has sparked this year's victory explosion. Top returnees include junior forward Erinn Garner, senior Pollyanna Williams with 21 points, and sophomore Karisma Horne with twelve points.

"We have a more talented group of girls on the team now. We don't have to spend as much

time going over the basics," said Street, now in her fifth season with the Bison. "I'm putting more responsibility on the players and they've accepted the responsibility."

have been essential to the team's unprecedented success this year, Street said. Bean, a native of Bermuda, and reluctant star leads the team and Division I schools in points

Lady Bison Drop Back-to-Back Games

By Elena Bergeron
Contributing Writer

The Lady Booters dropped their second straight game Thursday night to Virginia Tech 4-0, bringing the team to 8-5 on the season. By holding the team scoreless, the Hokies effectively shackled Division I leading scorer Raneika Bean.

After a defensive first half that saw few scoring opportunities for both teams, Virginia Tech went up on midfielder Kathy Holdsworth's breakaway goal ten minutes into the second half. The Lady Booters controlled the ball in Hokie territory after the goal but couldn't capitalize on their chances, including Meghan Drayton's potentially game-tying shot, that was blocked by a defender after Tech

goalie Katie Hancock came out of goal to challenge Bean.

Hokie forward Kim Wycoff then put Tech up 2-0 on a shot from the left side from 20 yards out. Tech finally put the game out of reach with two goals within ten minutes of each other, including a second by Holdsworth. The Hokies outshot the Bison 12-5, with only 2 Howard shots coming in the second half.

The loss marks the first time this year that the Lady Booters have lost consecutive games. The team was noticeably handicapped in the game by the absence of the team's second leading scorer, forward Erinn Gardner. The junior, who usually sets up Bean on the right side, will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL.

Two players who have readily accepted that responsibility, and helped accelerate the program's development are freshman forward Raneika Bean and Garner. These two players

and ranks third in the country for scoring. As of October 22, Bean scored 16 goals and recorded 4 assists for a total of 36 points. She averages over a goal per game. Bean attributed her

success and the team's success to their work ethic and support of each other.

"We support each other a lot, we have a pretty good team, and I've been working hard," she said. "I just try to use my speed and talent to do my best."

Garner on the other hand has been in this position before. She led the team last year with 25 points, and has 6 goals and 1 assist for 13 points this year.

"When Erin and Bean are double teamed, it leaves other people available to shine," said Street.

However, Garner suffered a key injury which has taken her out for the rest of the season, already changing the team dynamic, said Street. Since she's been out, the team has held a record of 1-2.

"A lot of girls will have to step up," said Street.

Offensively the team has scored more goals than ever before, but Street believes that defensively they need to organize more as a unit and improve team fitness. "Team fitness needs work, because even if the ability is there, your fitness level can betray you," said Street. Street plans on working on fitness level during the off-season.

"As a whole we've seen leadership come out. Camille Bywaters has been absolutely extraordinary. Not only has she stepped up her game but she has induced excitement in others," said

Lady Bison Stumble on Senior Night

By STEPHANIE CROUCH
Contributing writer

Crowds which nearly topped the century mark turned out to watch the Howard University Women's Volleyball team unwillingly surrender two matches to both the American University Lady Eagles (19-30, 15-30, 15-30) on Tuesday night and to long time rival Morgan State (28-30, 22-30, 27-30) Friday night.

The Lady Bison started off strong against American University. With an attack error on behalf of the Lady Eagles, followed by a kill by outside hitter Dawn Thomas, the Lady Bison took an early lead. Unfortunately, after two long rallies and a number of kills by middle blocker Natacha Cornaz of American University, the Lady Bison's reluctantly relinquished that lead. The Bison ended the first game with 6 kills, 31 total attacks and 11 fewer points than American.

Outside hitter Crystal Amede'e said that the lost of the first game was a direct result of the teams' inconsistency.

"I think the circumstances under which we lost had to do with our consistency," she said. "We have good players, we can serve hit, pass and block well, but we have to work on always playing at a consistency high level."

The teams' inconsistency was further seen as the Lady Bison lost 15-30 in both the second and third game. American began the second game with outside hitter Eneida Muzhaqi receiving two aces followed by two attack errors on behalf of the Lady Bison, placing Howard immediately in a four-point hole. With

the Lady Bison unable to gain control of the lead, the second quickly spiraled out of control. The Bison's third game against American game began with a kill by Jessamyne Rice. Although Lady Bison tied the score several times during the game, American was able to pull away and ultimately defeat Howard.

Thomas, who led the game with 5 kills and 16 total attacks, credits the loss against American, to the Eagle's offense.

"Although American has a big team, they have slow players," Thomas said. "However, American could run a quick offense always putting us a set behind in defense. This is where the Eagles were able to put the ball down and win the game," she added.

The Lady Bison also put forth a whole-hearted effort in their last home game against Morgan State. The game opened with numerous errors on behalf of Morgan followed by two powerful kills by right side Delores Whitening allowing Howard to cruise to a six point lead over Morgan. However, after Whitening's point it was all downhill for the Lady Bison, and Morgan State defeated Howard 28-30.

There were several key players in the Morgan State game. Hayes recorded eight kills, 19 total attacks and three block assist. She felt that keeping her composure helped the team, but just was not enough to insure a victory.

"I kept communicating with the team and did the best I could in order to motivate and keep the team moving toward a positive light," Hayes said.

Thomas also received 7 kills, 22 total attacks and 8 defensive digs. She claims their loss was



Unfortunately, volleyball team members celebrated Friday's Senior Night with a disappointing loss to Morgan State. The team also fell to American University last Tuesday.

due to the Lady Bison inability to read some players.

"Our defense was unable to read the key hitter, Yolanda McGirt," she said. "She was just simply a smart hitter."

The loss against Morgan also dropped the Lady Bison into the number two spot in the

Northern Conference of the MEAC. The Bison need a win against Morgan on Wednesday in order to tie with them for the number one spot. Thomas was sure that the team would accomplish this goal.

"I feel very confident," she said. "And when Wednesday comes we'll be ready for them."

Sex And the Chocolate City

Is it Right to Have Requirements?

By TIFFANY D. JACKSON
Contributing Writer

What happened to the world of dating? When did our little black books become our cell phones? When did we start finding dates on BlackPlanet? And when did our requirements for a mate become textbook size?

Before, it was three simple words-tall, dark, and handsome. Now, it's tall, dark, handsome-with cornrows, a Range Rover, two-way pager, and mad cheese.

Personally, I do have a rather extensive requirement list which I recently edited. It is the following: I want a tall, attractive, humorous man with a good head on his shoulders and some type of goals in his life. He must love movies, poetry, art, and have a respectable heart. There, I summed up what I wanted in two simple sentences.

However, sometimes we must think realistically. No one says you have to settle or accept something in your life that you don't want. You're a beautiful person and you are worth more than that.

But, let's be reasonable. You must give up some of those textbook pages in order to get at least some of what you want. Or you'll be left with nothing. At the same time, however, there is a difference between settling and compromising.

For example, I went out on a date (don't ask me why) with this guy I met during Homecoming (that's a story in itself). He only had two out of the ten things I want in a man. Bluntly put: that's not good enough. Yet some girls can have a guy with a nine out of ten and he's still not good enough. Give the guy a break!

An example of the flip side of this situation: last year I was talking to this guy who had about nine and a half out of ten and was pretty much perfect for me; however, his heart wasn't all there. Back to that definition about each side giving up some demands, maybe I didn't add up to what *he* wanted. Maybe I wasn't what he was looking for, if he was really looking at all.

So, is it right to have requirements? Absolutely, but don't think the real world is going to spoil you and always give you exactly what you want. Realize that the silver medal is better than not getting an award at all. But hey, don't listen to me! I just live life and write about it.

GirlsNightOutDC.com Provides Social Outlet For Area Women

By METANOYA WEBB
Contributing Writer

Attention ladies of the DC Metropolitan area: An all girls' web site was launched in February of this year and was designed to cater to the interests of you! GirlsNightOutDC.com is a site created solely for women that desire to partake in all of the exciting activities and events the District has to offer.

Farrah Ashline, web site creator, moved from Boston to the District three years ago with a devout mission to meet other interesting, outgoing, innovative and active women who shared her interests of meeting new people and trying new things. So, Farrah decided to create an all girls website with the goal of bringing women of all ages together in a social setting, while increasing female awareness, strengthening the mind, body, and spirit, and building life long friendships.

GirlsNightOutDC.com organizes and plans monthly events that women of all ages would enjoy. Planned events vary and include such activities as weekend trips, spa nights, play readings, restaurant outings, museum galas, fashion shows, horse back riding, hiking, sailing, biking, dance classes, painting, yoga, pilates, ice skating, camping, political rallies, volunteering, outlet shopping, and much more. Three to four planned activities per week are the standard goal.

In addition, specific workshops are organized regarding women's issues like financial

and educational planning, how to plan a wedding or shower, teen esteem, divorce and separation, eating disorders and many other common issues that may confront women of all ages.

GirlsNightOutDC.com also has many exciting features and opportunities available for it's members. Monthly calendars which list all the activities available and their times for that particular month are posted on the site, as well as a large selection of highly recommended business services.

Each month, two members receive free makeovers, which include hair, makeup, a facial, manicure and pedicure, and wardrobe, and for those seeking insightful advice, "Ms. Muse" is available.

The site also features a woman who has an incredible story and has been a true inspiration in the Wonder Woman of the month section.

Finally, the site provides a testimonial page each month where girls give feedback and their personal critique of the web site; an astrology page entitled Astrogroove, which was designed by one of the site's members who studies and enjoys astrology and human behavior; and a page that lists available job opportunities.

Membership to GirlsNightOutDC.com is open to all residents of the DC metropolitan area. There is a membership fee of \$35 that helps with the computer site costs, advertising and member T-shirts. Everyone is able to check out the web site, but in order to access



Photo courtesy of www.girlsnighoutdc.com
GirlsNightOutDC.com Provides Social Outlet for Area Women

the events in detail and directions, you must be a member with an online password. You can access the *How to Join* page on the web site to print out an application and send it to GirlsNightOutDC.com's corporate office, whose address is available through the site.

GirlsNightOutDC.com is a collaborative site that is an opportunity to meet incredible women, providing women with the opportu-

nity to network and connect in a way that no other women's organization does, according to Farrah Ashline. Even though this site is only available for women living in the DC Metropolitan area they encourage women of all ages to be on the lookout for GirlsNightOut sites in other cities, such as NYC, Boston, Atlanta, San Francisco, Memphis and Dallas.

Ursula Rucker Satiates Fans With Debut Release

By NIA McLEAN
Contributing Writer

If you're anything like me, you've heard the amazing female poet on the end of several Roots albums and wondered, "When will she release a collection of her own?"

Well, last month, Philly-bred (there really must be something in the water there) spoken-word artist Ursula Rucker finally blessed the world with her debut album, "Supa Sista". Full of pointed, lyrical verses "Supa Sista" is a socially conscious musical collection, from a woman's point of view.

In 12 tracks (plus one hot bonus), the Temple University journalism graduate pontificates on everything from falling in and out of love to the extreme measures a junkie will take to satisfy her addiction.

The CD opens with "In Her Elizabeth" which

features an A Capella Daniel "Gravy" Thomas who also wrote the piece. The next is "Womansong", which is a mid-tempo piece where a defiant Rucker declares:

"I ain't your doormat, your sugar tit/your in-house supply of bliss/your in-house ass to kick."

There is also, "What???" a diatribe on the sad state of hip-hop set to drum and bass.

"No Crissy, no thongs/no baby boos or baby daddies/no tricks, no whips, no weight pushin'/ and absolutely no platinum or ice," asserts Rucker.

The most impressive song-poem may be the title track. Uplifting and in praise of strong black women, "Supa Sista" begins with Ursula solemnly singing of the white master raping his black servant and calling her "blackness untame". Vowing to rewrite history, Rucker sings about the dynamic woman she

describes as "packing more force than a four-time/heavyweight champion/kinky coil topped cauldron/of pain, passion and black-mama strength/hell-bent on/making your mark in this world."

Although this CD is definitely pro-woman, there is something for the men too. "Brown Boy" is dedicated to the broken spirit of the black man who has survived slavery, lynching, and the perpetual emasculation that comes with living. Sympathizing, she asks:

"How could anyone...feel...deal/after centuries of...humiliation, displacin', castration.../discrimination..."

As entertaining as it is compelling, this CD is something that anyone who enjoys spoken word will enjoy. The accompanying music compliments Rucker's youthful, yet mature voice quite well.



Photo courtesy of www.ursula-rucker.com

Rucker has been compared to black female poets, Nikki Giovanni and Sonia Sanchez who arose out of the Black Arts Movement of the mid 60's and 70's.

However, she possesses a power and creativity that are all her own.

Find out more about the artist at her website: <http://www.ursula-rucker.com>.

For Sisters Only Expo Strives for Sisterhood

By NIA McLEAN
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, thousands gathered in the Washington Convention Center to celebrate women of color at the 5th annual For Sisters Only Expo. The Expo, sponsored by local radio stations, WPGC 95.5-FM and Heaven 1580 AM, caters to the needs and interests of today's Black women. The two-day event includes workshops, seminars, live entertainment, and over hundreds of exhibitors, providing fun and information for the whole family as well as providing exposure for many businesses that are owned by black women.

Iona Cunningham, editor and publisher of *Iona Magazine*, which is based in San Bernadino, CA, came to bring her publication to a wider audience.

"It's easier to hit here than to do mass-mailings. I am hoping to really get the word out about the magazine and get some subscribers" says Cunningham of *Iona*, a magazine she started over a year ago for young black women.

Connie Gorum, of Maryland wanted to

showcase her growing greeting card business, Keepn-itrealt, which features cards covers a range of topics from abuse to "sista love" or cards that provide encouragement from one black woman to another.

"I am here for exposure. It [her cards] is a new line. I wanted to get exposure and feedback. I have gotten nothing but positive feedback, so I am feeling good about that."

One of the many brothers at the Expo, Anthony D. Lawrence, a DC author came to promote his book.

"My books are geared towards helping the youth make positive choices an decisions. I just think it [the Expo] is a productive event. In these times, we need to come together as race, as a nation, and as a people to grow."

With DC having one of the wealthiest Black Communities in the nation and the Expo bringing in anywhere from 30,000 to 50,000 black women and their families, vendors in attendance were afforded an incredible opportunity to gain support for their products and services.

At the Health Pavilion, there were health screenings, condoms and tons of information available to the crowd. Vivian Strong, who attended Howard's Graduate School of Social

Work, and is a social worker for Healthy Babies came to inform people about her organization.

"We are letting people know where we are located and passing out information. I think this is sort of a good venue [for Healthy Babies]. Most of the women here are not going to use our services. We target pregnant women and I don't see too many pregnant women here. My hope is that people take the information we have and spread the word."

Saadika Moore, a health educator from the Gaston T. Neal project, which stresses HIV prevention to women in DC's Ward 5 felt that participating at the Expo was very beneficial.

"We feel that this is a good venue because women from all over the DC metropolitan area are here. We have scores of people coming to our table. It's an opportunity to share with them on how to protect themselves from HIV."

One of the most exciting aspects of the expo is the presence of celebrities. This year the musical entertainment included Faith Evans, Busta Rhymes, India Arie, Musiq Soulchild, Donnie McClurkin, Tank, EU, Missy Eliot, and Chuck Brown.

"I am just here to see India Arie. That's pret-

ty much it," said Beretha Thornton a fan who waited patiently as the neo-soul songstress struggled to give the audience a dynamic performance despite technical difficulties.

The Literary Cafe, presented by Drum and Spear Books featured renowned author Dr. Frances Cress Welsing (*The Isis Papers*) as well as the popular "bad boy" author (*The Maintenance Man, Men Cry in The Dark*) and host of the new WB talk show "Talk or Walk", Michael Baisden to name a few.

Also present were WPGC's numerous on-air personalities including Donnie Simpson, DJ Flex, Michel Wright, Chris Paul, David Haynes, EZ Street and others who signed autographs and chatted with fans.

The Expo, which also had a Children's Pavilion and a "For Brothers Only" section for equipped with a television and snacks for the men to watch football, met the approval of many, including Aja Nelson, a sophomore at Lee Davis High School in Va.

"I liked the talent shows, the clothes, the cars and the free food. Then they have stuff for little kids. There are a variety of things here."

Vendor William Walker also appreciated the spirit of sisterhood evident at the Expo.

"It's good, it's an opportunity to see the sisters get along. It's a unity thing. It's about getting the sisters together and having them think and act like sisters."

Nevertheless, as is the case with many events, there were complaints.

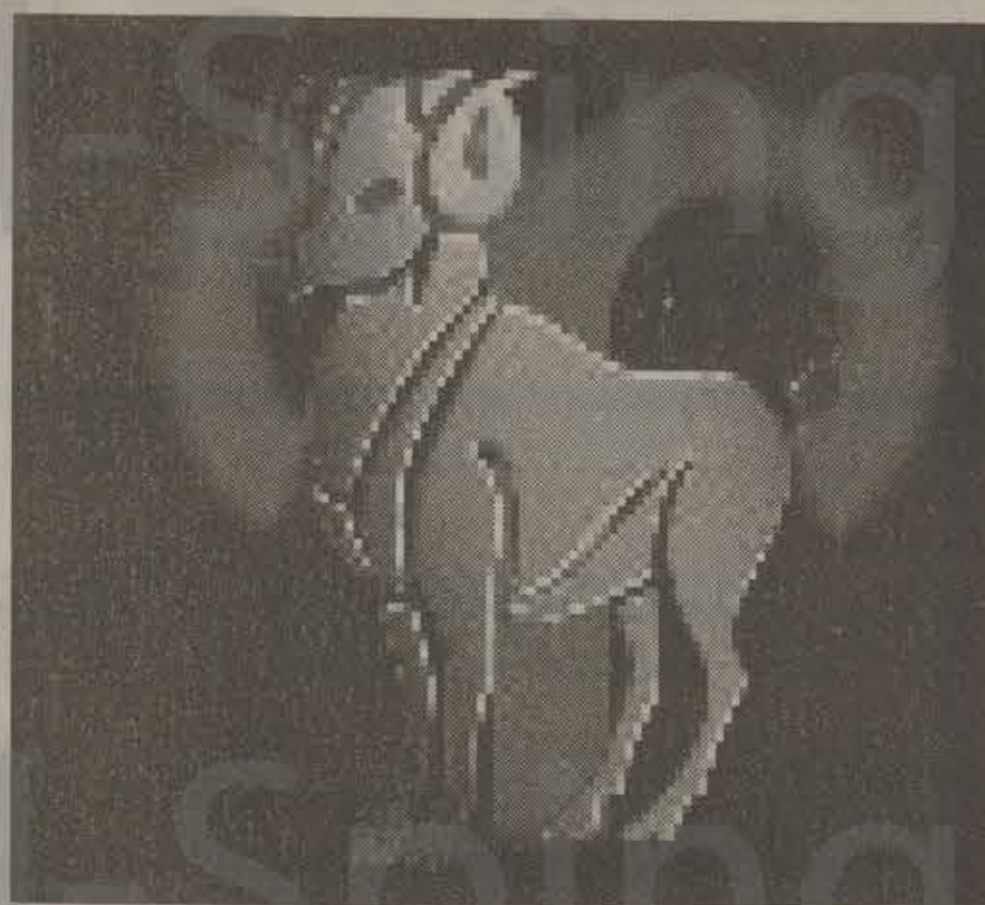
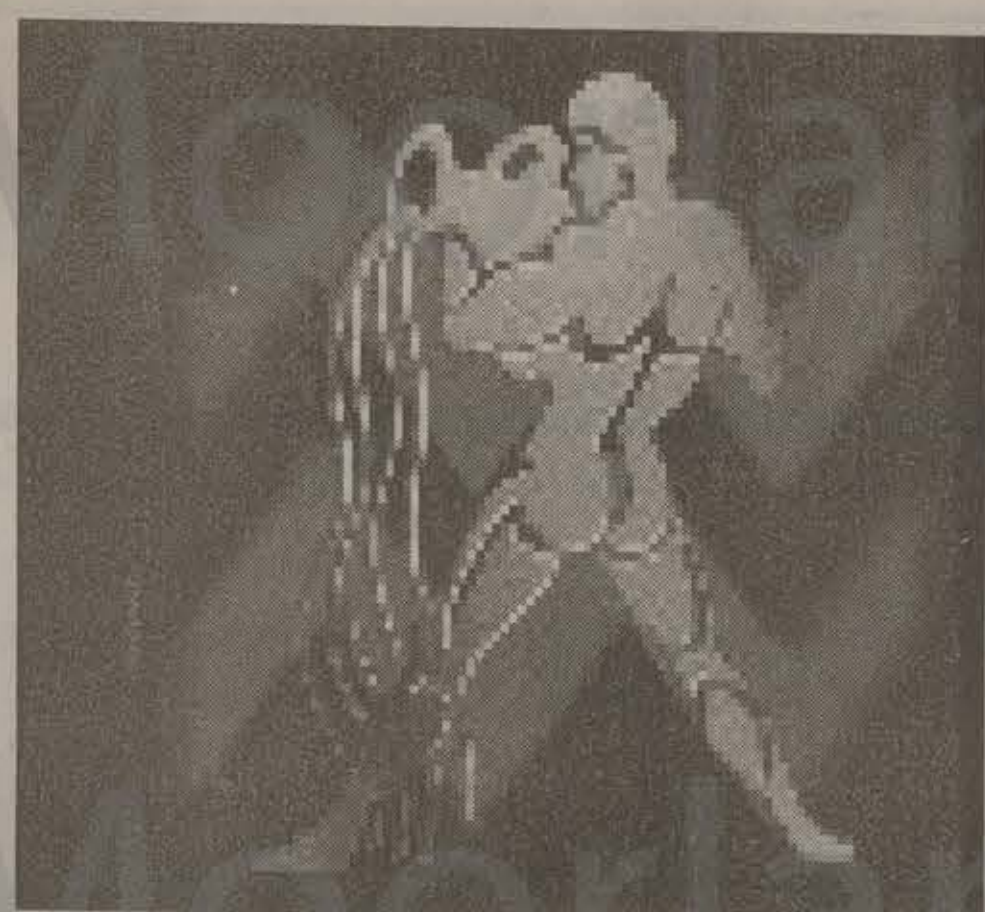
"I think this is exciting. However, I'm sorry that it is an event that requires payment. There's valuable information here and unfortunately if you don't have the money to gain entrance you miss out," said Andrea Edmond, another Howard alum.

Admission to the event cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-11, and free for ages 5 and under. WPGC will donate a portion of the Expo's proceeds to The Pentagon Victims Fund, to aid the families of victims of the September 11th tragedy.

Event planners and sponsors feel the Expo has had another successful year.

WPGC's Michel Wright, felt the Expo drew a great crowd.

"It seems like a lot of people arrived. I see a lot of sisters, brothers, and families, I'm happy to see it."



Monthly Feature: Scorpio (October 23- Nov. 21)

The need for some time alone drives a wedge between you and your sweetie. If you work your magic right, it'll just serve to increase the fun when you get back together. This week is also filled with many surprises.

Famous Scorpions: Sean "P Diddy" Combs (11/4 /70)
Nia Long (10/30/ 70)
Calvin Klein (11/19/42)



Photo courtesy of
www.movies.yahoo.com

Nia Long celebrates her 31st birthday this month.



Weekly Horoscopes

Sagittarius (Nov.22- Dec.21)

You are an individual who asserts yourself in a positive manner. A leadership role or an opportunity to do something that you've always wanted to do is likely to be offered to you.

Capricorn (Dec.22 - Jan.19)

You are over-indulgent in activities and feel as if you have a burden on your shoulders. Now is not the time to slack off. You have many responsibilities at hand. The end result will be rewarding.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You've been aloof lately-especially with friends. Although you are not in the mood to socialize much, go out with a group of friends. You will find yourself feeling more enthusiastic and spiritually uplifted.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your mood tends to fluctuate this week. You are feeling indecisive right now and you end up spending some time with an individual you just met. Watch out- you are spend-

ing time with this individual for the wrong reasons.

Aries (Mar.21-Apr.19)

This week has you feeling exhausted and cranky. There are a lot of things that you want to do but you are uncertain of where to start. Take your time with whatever you want to accomplish. People born under the Aries sign are known for their impatience.

Taurus (Apr.20- May 20)

For all you female Taurians, you find yourself thinking about your ex a lot lately. As for the male Taurus, you find yourself trying to be more studious than usual.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

A friend is appreciative of your charming and flirtatious manner. You also receive many compliments from authoritative figures.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are trying your hardest not to procrastinate with projects and assignments. You also find yourself conversing with people more than

usual. This is a week to network with people and show them what you're all about.

Leo (Jul.23 - Aug.22)

You find yourself taking on many responsibilities that relate to future goals and aspirations. There is a major goal that you would like to fulfill 3 months from now. However, to reach that goal you realize that the hard work must begin now.

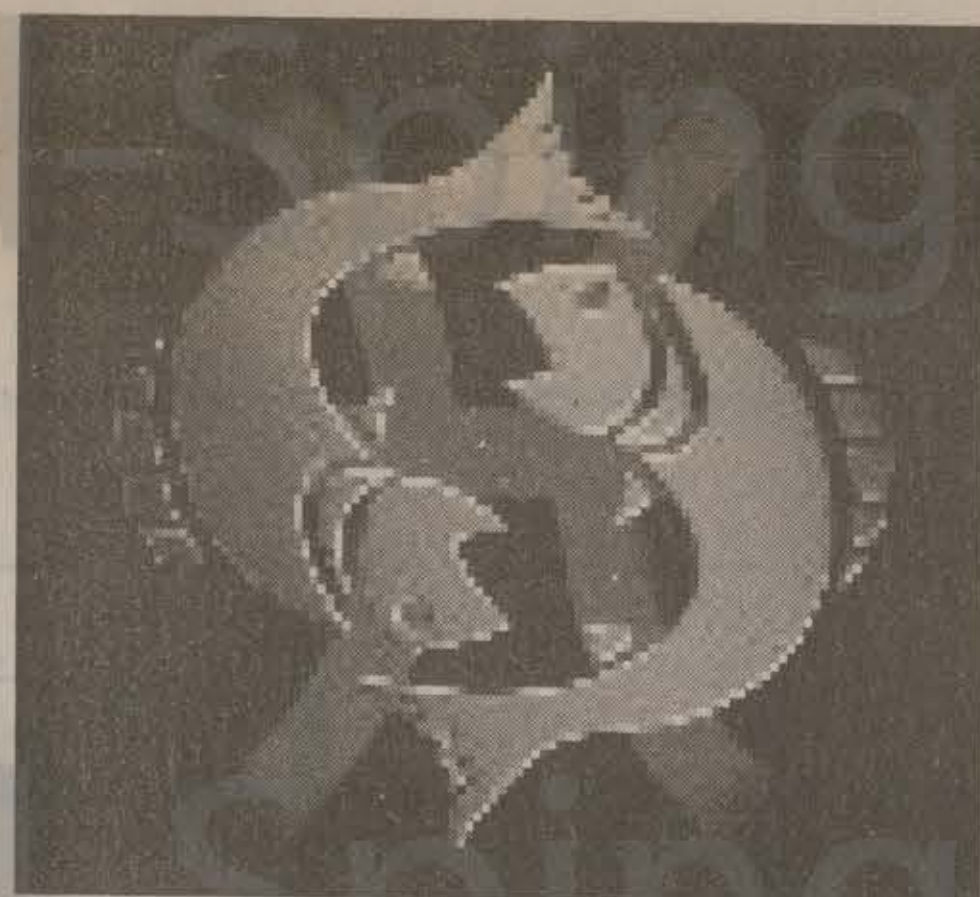
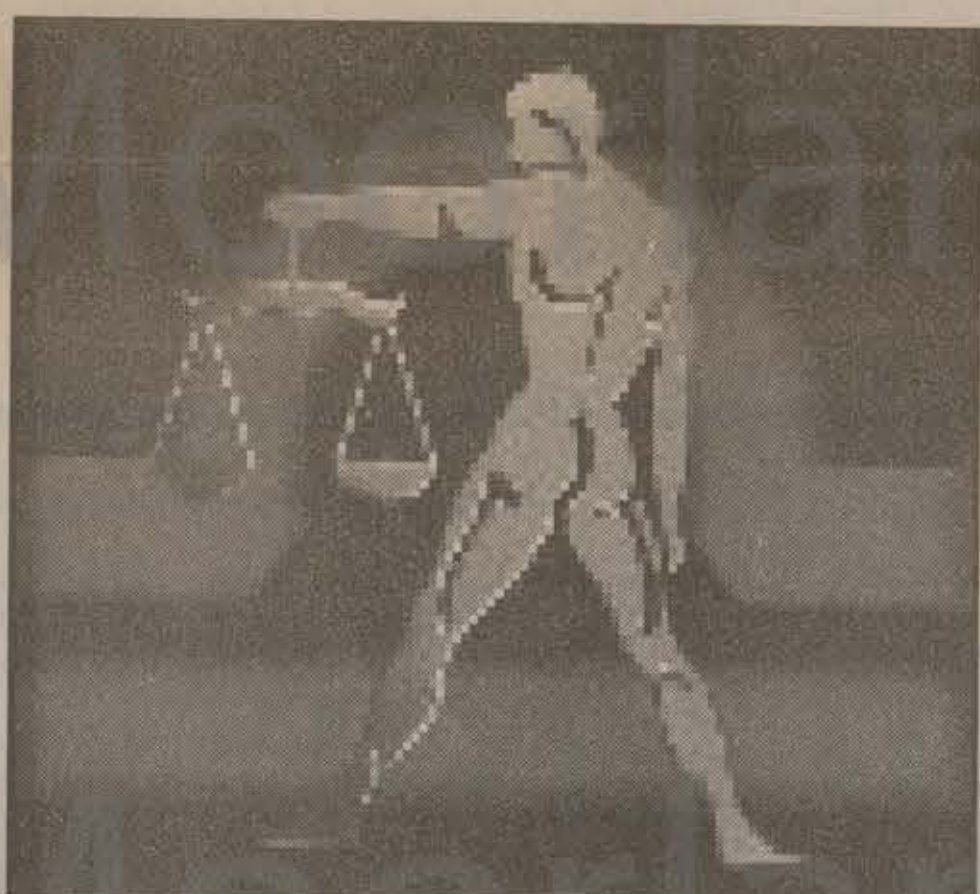
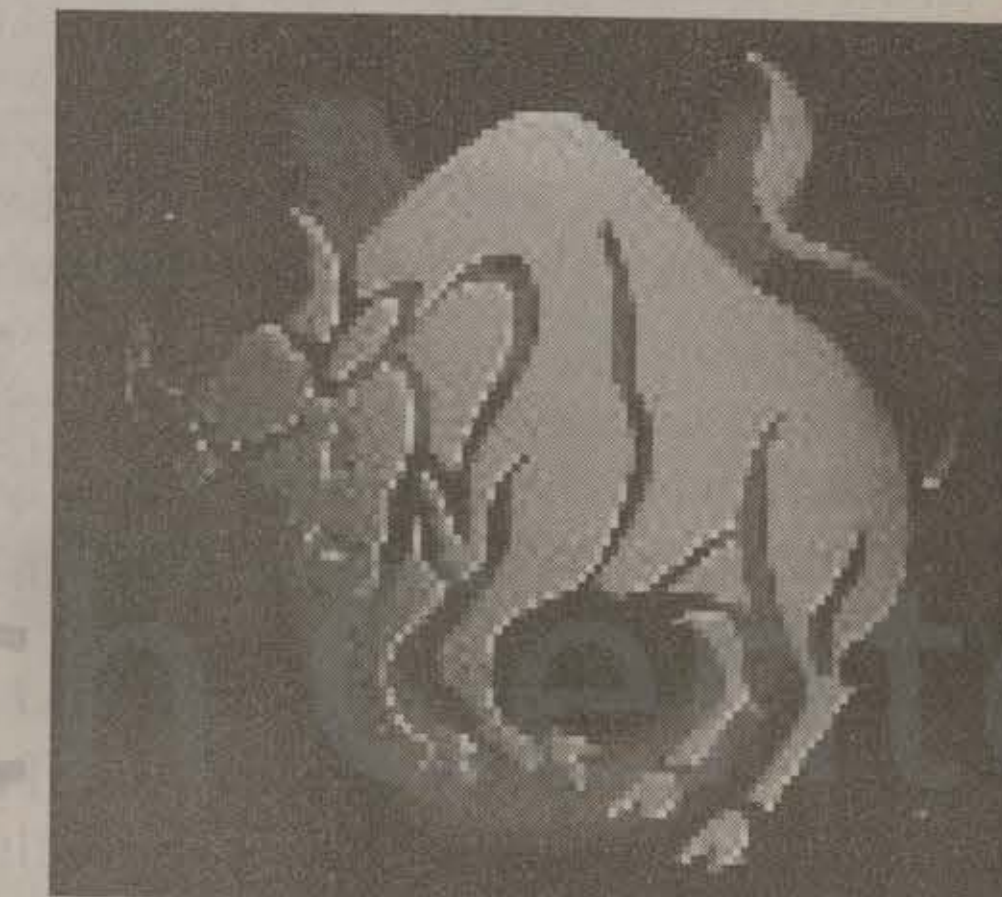
Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept.22)

Wednesday promises something interesting and unexpected since it's the 2nd full moon of the month. You end up flirting a lot with a good friend of the opposite sex.

Libra (Sept. 23- Oct.22)

You have the urge to cheat on your sweetie but that's strongly not advised. You both share the same friends and it would just be a matter of time before word gets out.

Written and Compiled by
Leesa Davis.



Foetus' *Blow* an Emotional Roller Coaster

By VIC BLACKWELL
Contributing Writer

Who would have thought that an accordion, an oboe and a folding chair would sound so good together? Obviously Foetus (aka J.G. (Jim) Thirwell) did. The Australian Techno-rocker has made yet another mark on the music scene with this new hodge-podge of sound called *Blow*. This, Foetus' 14th album in twenty years, is a mix of almost every instrument one could think of, all playing the right note at the right time and at the right place. *Blow* is a masterpiece from the master of Techno.

Arguably the greatest in the genre, J. G. Thirwell accredits his success to never being satisfied with a single sound. So much could

be said for his choices of names. Over his career, Thirwell has been Steroid Maximus, Clint Ruin, Wiseblood, DJ OTEFSU, Manorexia and most recently, Foetus. A native of Melbourne, Australia, Thirwell moved to London in the late 1970's where he created the *strategic framework for Foetus*, "impenetrable panoramas of extremist noise built on tape loops and syncopated rhythms - as an alternative to the constraints of rock music."

The 12-track release is just that and more. With song titles like *The Cirrhosis of the Heart* and *The Need Machine*, *Blow* expresses a broad view of the emotions of humanity. And he does all this through the sound of breaking glass, a shrieking clarinet or a smooth jazz piano.

Look, I know that you are a little skeptical, but it is worth a download. Track three, Victim or Victor (nice title) is a battle of classical violin and shrilling electric guitar. The balance and timing are amazing. If you listen closely enough (well, you have to download it first) you can hear each side making an argument.

Blow is a box of melodious cellos, squeaking doors, whimsical piccolos and armpit farts. It is definitely worth listening to - for a while. I got to track number seven, took a break and listened to some Jill (*woke up this morning, with a smile on my face . . .*) and finished *Blow* later. Thirwell and his TWELVE guest mixers took me on an emotional roller coaster and I could only ride once. *Blow* gets a "B."



Photo by Paul Dickerson.
Foetus (J.g. Thirwell) performs at Emo's in Austin, Texas.

Poetry Corner

Simile

This thing we got is bigger than a simile...

As I ponder sitting back on life's symmetry,
Thinking about our chemistry,

Your skin tone and lithe energy-

The compulsion that makes me want to be a part of your emulsion
— Your mix

Your thick thighs and ripe lips

The memories of the expansion of our first kiss

Blue lights, heated oils and fingertips,

Desire is awake but now it becomes a beast

-We get it poppin'

Sweat soaking up your fitted sheets,

But back to the script and the message I spew,

If you saw through my optics would you enjoy the view?

Be it physical, mental or just some drama

The love game you see, you can compare it to grammar:

No nouns with nouns- you can't introduce em to mama,

Now if the subject is the predicate and what goes between:

The adverb is irrelevant if it's fast or clean,

Maybe she's born with it—

Maybe it's Maybelline,

But the adjective that comes to mind is:

'Damn, she's mean'

Your name in front, mine in back with 'and' between

To the ladies in the world you'll go unseen:

Your predicate may be bangin' but your mind is green,

It don't matter what ink you use to scribe your lines

Just make sure its your writing every time,

The truest true loves never come to a full stop

Between me and you there's no punctuation

Our time together is my highest elevation,

With you— the verbs have more power and the adjectives are flowery

This thing we got is bigger than a simile...

-Wally Cambridge

"Authority"

I'm flawed; there's no doubt about that.
But I'm blessed and that's a fact. You
can tell me that I'm worthless, but I
know that it's not true. So I'll turn
around and walk away or smile right
back at you.

I will not receive your hate! If I take it
it will take me and make me to wrong.
Hate your just not that powerful, your
not that strong.

So excuse me if I don't bow down. It's
just not my place. I'd rather throw water
on that fire you always try to spit in my face.

Oh I see. It's my authority you despise.
My Father gave it to me, and it far out weighs
your lies. Truth is, your worthless. All I have
to do is say the words and you'll be done. So
once
and for all...
hate I command you to be gone!

—Tessa Smith

I believe...

I believe that god above
created you for me to love
He picked you out from all
the rest because he knew
I'd love you best

I had a heart and it was true
but now it's gone from me
to you

So take care of it as I have
done cause now you have
two and I have none
If I shall die and go up there
I'll write your name on a
golden stair

And if your not there on
judgement day I'll know
you went the other way
I'll give the angels back
their wings, the long white
robes and everything And
just to prove that my love is
true I'll go to hell
just TO BE WITH YOU....

—Monica Steele

EDITORIALS



THE HILLTOP



IRA PORTER, *Editor-in-Chief*

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JAMYE SPILLER, *Managing Editor*

Founded in 1924

Let's Continue the Fight

When the stakes are high, do you give your opponent a break because he asks you nicely? If you want to lose, then you might consider it. America is at war, and whether we continue to bomb Afghanistan before, during, or after Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, the desired end result remains the same: quickly closing the book on what has been an ugly past couple of weeks.

After the U.S. was given the go-ahead by the United Nations, foreign public opinion and the support of Muslim "allies" are not grounds enough to call a ceasefire. White, Black, Indian and Asian patriotism has rallied American support for the government's decision to attack terrorism. This attack has manifested itself in the form of the Afghanistan bombings and other possible covert missions against the Taliban and the al Qaeda network, both of which are at an advantage since they are fighting on their own mountainous land.

American allies have supported the U.S. military campaign against terrorism until now, but are now warning the U.S. that continuing to bomb into the holy month of Ramadan would

only serve to increase anti-U.S. sentiment, put a strain on some of these already existing alliances, and potentially damage our chances of finding a political alternative.

Never mind the fact that two countries that warn against the bombing, Egypt and Syria, made a surprise attack on Israel in 1973 on the

religious holiday of Yom Kippur. A war known to Arabs as the Ramadan War since it fell so close to their holy month. Is it then only considered to be acceptable to be engaged in war around Ramadan when Muslims are the ones attacking?

Why should we give mercy to an organization that is housing a man who mercilessly killed 6,000 innocent people, under the guise of religion? Shall we stop bombing during Ramadan, and allow the Taliban to shamelessly operate under this same guise, ultimately ending in another attack on America?

There are two things to be certain of when thinking about this U.S. military campaign: In times of war, all bets are off. Everyone will be relieved to see an end to what Bush has called a "long and difficult war". Whether it is before, during, or after Ramadan.

Our View

America should continue its attack against terrorism during Ramadan.

We Must Protect Ourselves

An ever-present issue of concern for students is campus safety, female students in particular. While demands and voiced concerns continue among students, little is actually being done to effectively make students feel secure. Recent events on campus have caused students to become even more concerned about their safety. According to an article published in the October 26th issue, a large number of female students have requested a University sponsored symposium on safety.

We suggest that the University go a step further. Many universities across the country offer self-defense courses as part of their physical education curriculum. Howard is not one of them. Third party groups, such as the DC Rape Crisis Center, have offered daily or weekly classes in the past, but these classes do not compare to the benefits a semester-long course in self-

defense would offer.

In addition to providing students with the necessary physical skills to thwart attackers, a self-defense course would provide students with a heightened sense of awareness. The services that Howard does provide are often unknown to students, especially incoming freshmen. A self-defense course would make students aware of these services, as well as, teach students how to avoid potentially harmful situations. It would also teach the importance of reporting attacks that *do* occur.

In the midst of issues on campus, safety remains one that is overlooked or poorly handled. The issue, however, is among the most important- if not *the* most important issue on campus. Creating a self-defense course at Howard would be one way the University could move toward effectively solving our safety concerns.

Our View

The University should offer a self-defense class as part of its physical education curriculum to help improve the safety awareness of students.

More Than One Way

As the United States decides whether it should end all bombing in Afghanistan for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the country's leaders should also be discussing is a more effective way to fight this new war on the homefront and abroad. This country has been bombing Taliban facilities for over a month without reporting any significant advances. Instead, we have killed civilians and destroyed a Red Cross center. On the domestic front, several civilians have died from Anthrax, and hundreds more have had their entire lives altered. Moreover, Vice President Dick Cheney has assured Americans that civilian death totals will undoubtedly outnumber military totals. It appears the old adage about biting off more than you can chew may apply to America's decision to begin a war against a

faceless enemy like terrorism.

American citizens need a government that can estimate with some surety how, and when, it plans to win its war against the al Qaeda and Taliban, and how it can protect its citizens from the bio-terrorist attacks that are coming in the near future. Instead of trying to conjure up more

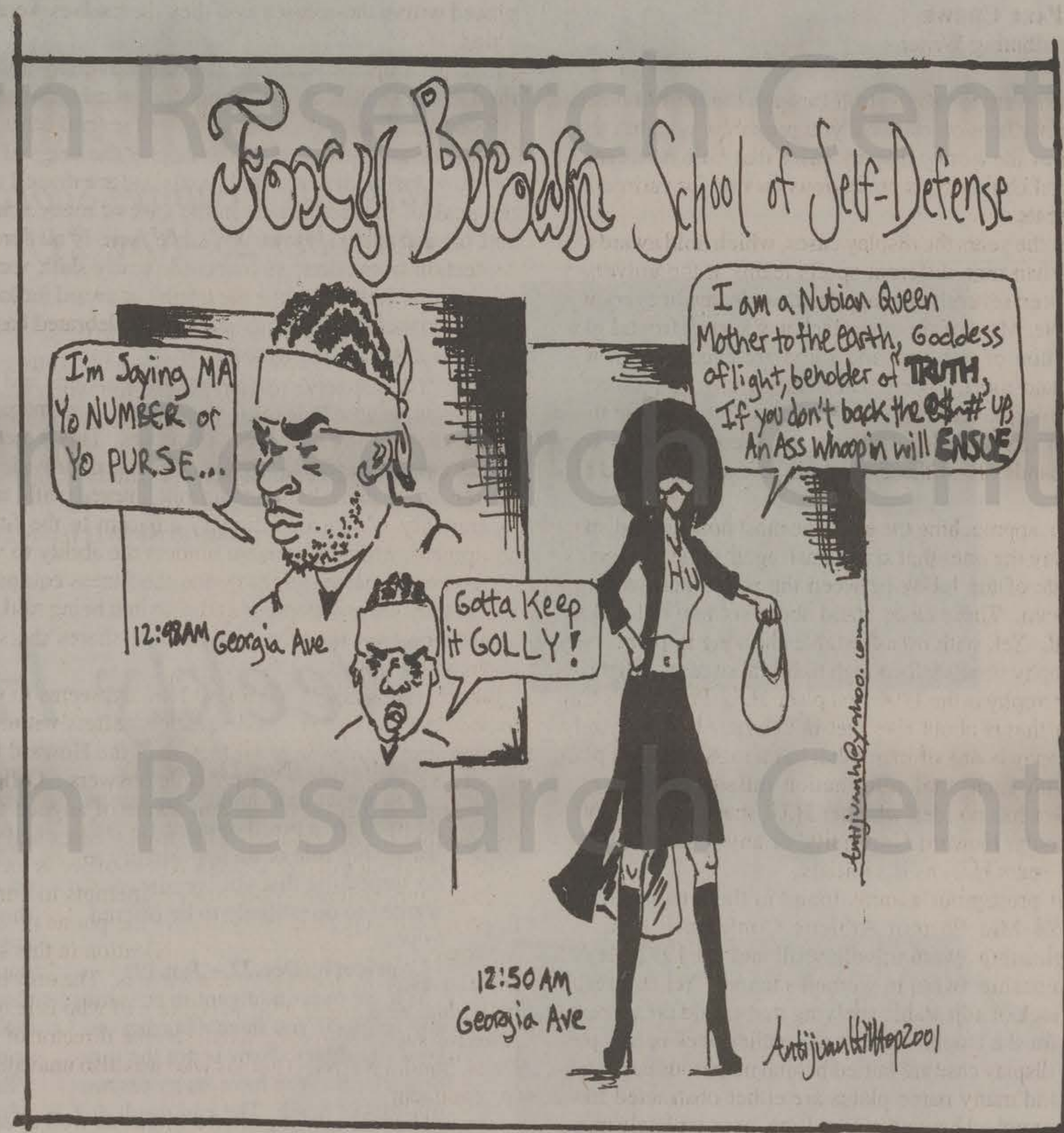
blind patriotism through rapid fire and propaganda attacks; American leaders should calmly outline their plan of action. While they are urging Americans to continue in their normal routines, they need to explain why our co-workers and neighbors are dying. American leaders need to set some concrete goals and achieve

them. Instead of patriotism and propaganda, the American people need planning and potency, if we can truly support this war effort.

Our View

The US should find a more effective way to disable the al Qaeda network.

Illustration By Antjuan Jackson



What's Your Opinion?

We encourage our readers to write letters to the Editor. Tell us what you think about the paper and its contents. We strive to produce a quality weekly with news pages that are devoid of slant or personal bias. Please address all letters or comments to The Hilltop, 2251 Sherman Ave., NW, Washington DC, 20001. You can also e-mail us at thehilltop@hotmail.com

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THE NATIONS LARGEST HBCU NEWSPAPER

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Now in its 77th year, The Hilltop is written and produced every Tuesday and Friday by the students of Howard University. With a readership of more than 10,000 students and community members, the Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not directly reflect the opinion of Howard University, its Administration, individual Hilltop Policy Board members, or the student body. The opinions expressed on the Perspectives page are those of the writers and do not represent the view of the Editorial Board.

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The deadline to submit ads to the paper is the Friday preceding publication. The advertising department can be reached at (202) 806-4749. The editor can be reached at (202) 806-4748.

Dilapidated Trophy Case Belittles Bison Brilliance

By PAUL CREWE
Contributing Writer

If you were to take a stroll through the Burr Gymnasium lobby here on campus, you probably wouldn't think much of the trophy display cases that hold hundreds of Howard University's prestigious awards for various athletic feats.

Over the years the display cases, which hold awards for more than nine different sports teams at the university, have been severely damaged and neglected in every way possible. Most of the cases lack any sort of frontal glass protection or lighting, and some are even littered with trash and tools. Sports teams ranging from football to swimming to tennis all have awards that reside in these display cases, yet students are not even warned to keep their hands off of these symbols of excellence and history.

When approaching the gym, the most noticeable display cases are the ones that stand flush against the wall on the left side of the lobby between the men's and women's bathroom. These cases stand about six feet tall and are lighted. Yet, with no adjustable shelving in place, only one trophy stands tall enough to fill these cases. That particular trophy is the 1996 first place H. U. President's Cup trophy that is about five feet in height. Unfortunately, this trophy is one of many that has a missing name plate and with such vital information missing, the average observer has no idea whether H.U. stands for Hampton University, Howard University, or any other institution which bears H.U. as it's initials.

Other prestigious awards found in these cases are the 1993-94 Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championship award in volleyball and the 1992 MEAC championship award in women's tennis. Yet as a result of the lack of adjustable shelving that would create more space for the trophies, most of smaller ones in this particular display case are buried behind numerous larger trophies and many name plates are either obstructed from view, scratched beyond recognition, or completely missing. On top of that, they are all caked with dust. Toward the center of this set of cases, one can clearly observe apparent construction materials that were unused and

placed within these cases as if they themselves were trophies.

Another impressive award that the university holds is the 1999-2000 MEAC championship award for women's basketball. This particular trophy and several other basketball championship trophies display the original nets cut down from the basketball goals and are draped upon the peak of the trophies as in the case of many schools and organizations. However, since there is no form of protection from admirers one could easily shift, vandalize, or completely remove the trophy or award including the traditional display of these highly celebrated basketball nets if he or she desired to do so.

Another case displays many wrestling awards and contains team biographical stories, pictures, and magazine articles that feature some team members. This is the lone trophy case within the lobby that does at least provide protection from onlookers and is not littered with trash. Regrettably, it's located directly adjacent to the fitness equipment, which somewhat hinders the ability to view it's contents. Many might notice the fitness equipment before they see any trophies and with that being said, one might wonder why fitness equipment shares the same room with trophies.

Who's responsible? No one at Howard seems to want to shoulder the blame. Maintenance staffers within the gymnasium pointed in the direction of the Howard University Service Center for possible answers. Officials there implied that they were not aware of anyone there responsible for the upkeep of the trophy cases and suggested speaking to Isaac Darden whose office is located in Burr Gymnasium. After several attempts to contact Darden both in person, as well over the phone no messages were returned in time for publication in this story and as a result, the same question remains. The only other individual who might hold an opinion of who is responsible for such negligence would be the director of athletics, Sondra Norrell-Thomas who was also unavailable for comment.

Howard has always preached athletic, as well as academic, excellence in an effort to develop complete individuals. However, it seems as if the University is not prepared to adequately acknowledge excellence.

Lower Gym Repairs Still Dragging Along

By Tamara Forbes
Contributing Writer

Though signs around had indicated that it would only be closed for two weeks, one half of the lower gymnasium in Burr is still closed after nearly a month of work. Physical Facilities Maintenance Manager, Isaac Dardin said that students might have to wait another month before all repairs are finished.

"Making a rough guess, the gym might be reopened in three weeks", Dardin said.

The gym was damaged in this summer's floods in the District.

Contractors have ripped up half of the gym floor, and are just now replacing the floorboards, after weeks of waiting for the material under them to dry, Dardin said. There is no exact number of workers involved in the project.

"Sometimes there are seven to eight people working while on other days there are three persons working. It's a network of people working down there and the floors cannot be rushed in order for it to be done properly".

Many physical education classes are still being bothered by the repairs, having little or no space to operate while the gym floor undergoes its renovations. Although, some teachers, students and athletes have managed to improvise

by finding new spaces where they can engage in their physical activities, others find the situation to be a huge hassle.

Dr. Caroline Barker, who teaches badminton at the University, has been coping with having classes in the south gym for the past two weeks. She stressed that this kind of situation does not present the best teaching opportunity, and hinders students' progress.

"We are on one side while they work on the other side, therefore we have three courts instead of six courts. With thirty-six to forty-two people on three courts you have less time on task. People are just limping by because they have to wait until a game is over before they can play and only five points game can be played, That's bad because as soon as you get a rhythm going it's time to sit down".

The closure of the lower gym and overcrowding in the main gym forced most students who usually play basketball in the gym to Banneker Park, just across the street from Howard University. However, the recent weather shift means that this option is no longer available to students.

There are also some safety issues with students playing at Banneker, after the murder that was committed near the Howard Plaza Towers Homecoming weekend. The murder came after the shooting at Georgia Avenue day in August, and before a recent kidnapping near the Banneker parking lot.

Howard University Science, Engineering and Mathematics (HUSEM) Program

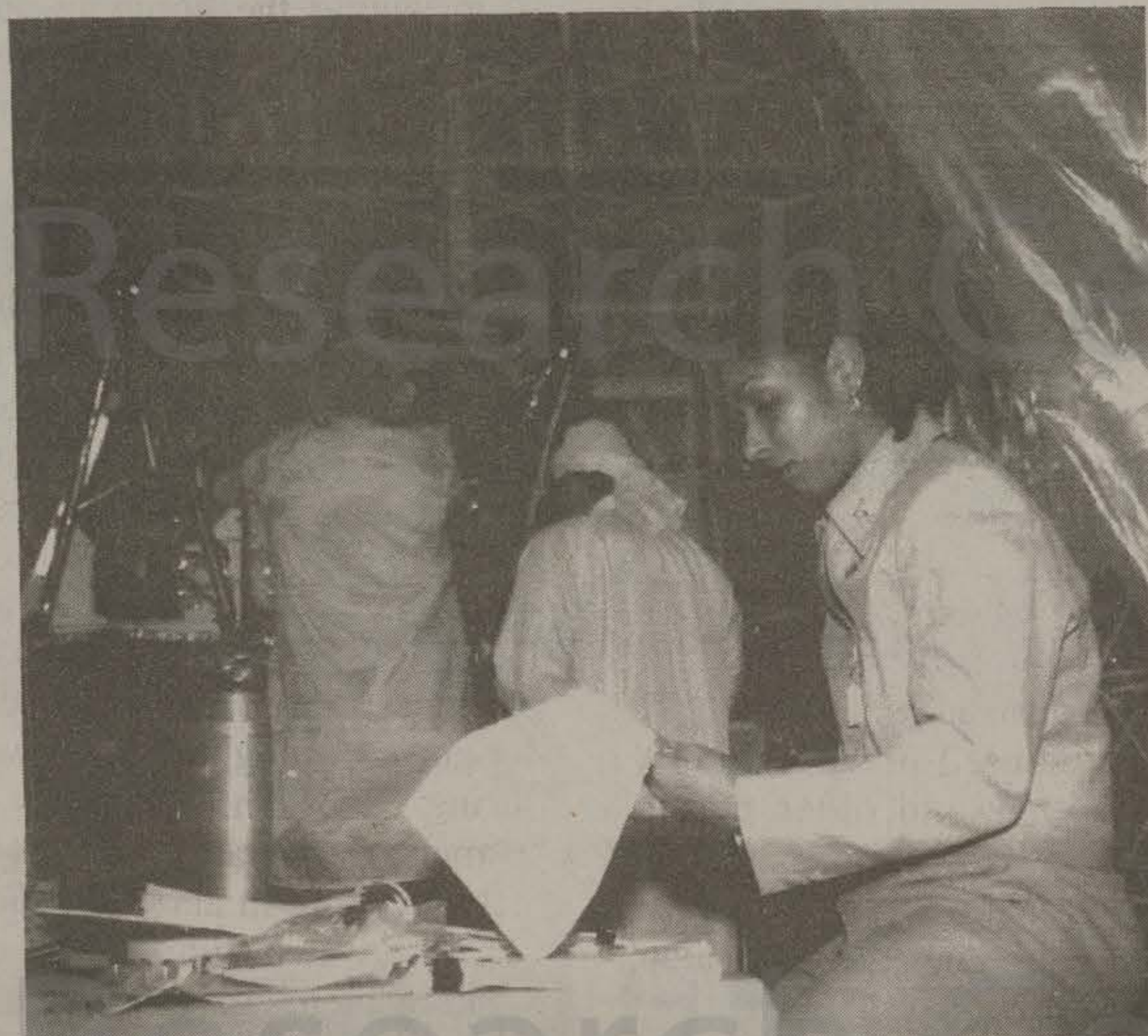
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING LECTURE SERIES

Speaker: Aprille Joy Ericsson, Ph.D.

NASA/Headquarters & Goddard Space Flight Center

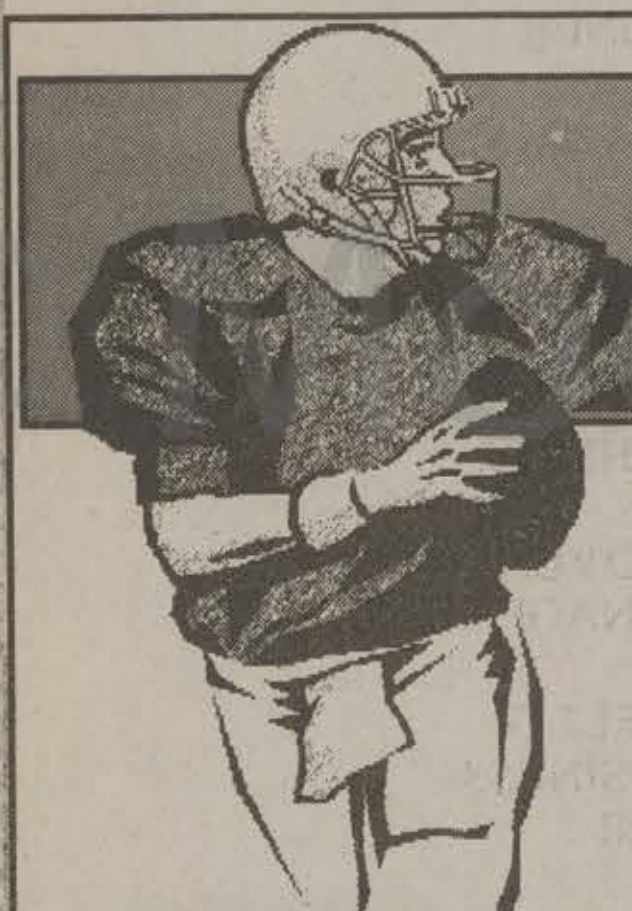
Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2001
Location: Blackburn Center Auditorium
Howard University, Washington, DC
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm

The Howard University Science, Engineering and Mathematics (HUSEM) Program is pleased to present Dr. Aprille Joy Ericsson, Aerospace Engineer for NASA Headquarters and Goddard Space Flight Center.



"Who would have imagined that in the 19th century a schoolteacher would help send men to the moon and a woman would command a Space Shuttle mission. It has been an extraordinary century for women. Now imagine the future."

For more information, contact Ms. Lisa J. Jennings, Coordinator
Howard University Science, Engineering and Mathematics (HUSEM) Program
2300 Sixth Street, NW, Room 1016, Washington, DC 20059
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NFL Ticker Week 7

Bye weeks: Green Bay, Atlanta, and Cleveland

Cincinnati (4-3) 31
Detroit (0-6) 27 F

Minnesota (3-4) 14
Tampa Bay (3-3) 41 F

New Orleans (4-2) 34
St. Louis (6-1) 31 F

San Francisco (4-2) 31
Chicago (5-1) 37 F/OT

NY Jets (4-3) 13
Carolina (1-6) 12 F

Jacksonville (2-4) 17
Baltimore (4-3) 18 F

NY Giants (3-4) 21

Washington (2-5) 35 F

Arizona (2-4) 3
Dallas (2-4) 17 F

Miami (4-2) 24
Seattle (3-3) 20 F

Buffalo (1-5) 24
San Diego (5-2) 27 F

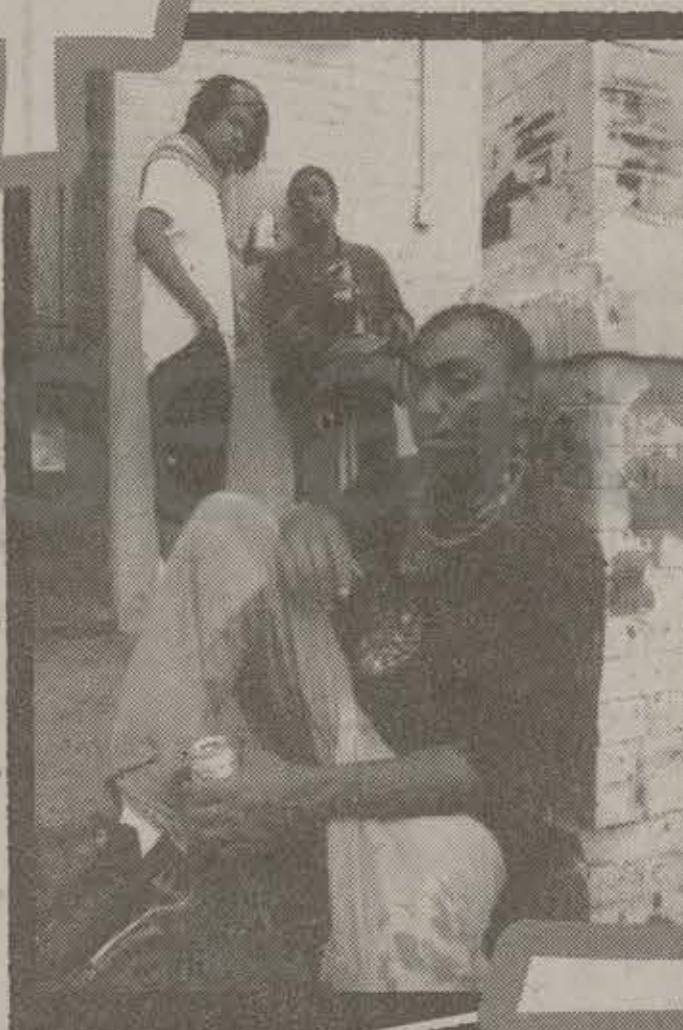
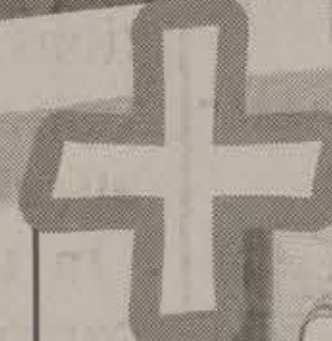
Oakland (5-1) 20
Philadelphia (3-3) 10 F

New England (3-4) 20
Denver (4-3) 31 F

Indianapolis (3-3) 35
Kansas City (1-6) 28 F

Compiled by staff writer
Aisha Chaney.

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The Office of Student Activities Is Now Accepting Applications for

2002 Homecoming Steering Committee Chair and Treasurer



Applications will be available in the Office of Student
Activities on Wednesday, October 31, 2001

The Deadline to turn in all applications is
Friday, November 15, 2001 at 5:00pm